

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T I E T H                      L E G I S L A T U R E

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 909**

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H. P. 1603

House of Representatives, February 19, 1941.

Reported by Mr. Dutton from Committee on State Lands and Forest Preservation and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Relating to the Slash Law.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**R. S., c. 11, § 53, amended.** Section 53 of chapter 11 of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 12 of the public laws of 1931, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

**‘Sec. 53. Debris and inflammable material caused by cutting forest growth adjacent to lands owned by another shall be disposed of; slash and debris caused by portable sawmills shall be disposed of; permit to be obtained for the burning of blueberry lands and grass lands adjacent to forest growth.** Any person, firm, corporation, or agent, cutting any forest growth on property adjacent to the right of way of any railroad or highway within the state, shall leave the growth uncut on the land within 50 feet of the limit of the right of way of a railroad or ~~center~~ **center from the nearer side** of the wrought portion of any plantation, town, city, county, or state road; (or shall dispose of slash and debris caused by cutting in such a manner that inflammable material shall not remain on the ground within 50 feet of the limit of the right of way of a railroad or ~~center~~ **center from the nearer side** of the wrought portion of any plantation, town, city, county, or state road. Any person, firm, corporation, or agent cutting any forest growth on property

adjacent to ~~woodlands~~ **lands** owned by another within the state outside the limits of the Maine forestry district **or within the district adjacent to property outside** and all such firms, persons, and corporations, who by themselves, their agents, servants, licensees, permittees, or lessees operate, or permit operation of portable sawmills on land which borders on ~~woodland~~ **land owned by another** shall dispose of slash and debris caused by cutting in such a manner that inflammable material shall not remain on the ground within 50 feet of the **property line of cutting on the side or sides towards such woodland**. **Provided, however, that the forest commissioner on his own initiative or upon written complaint of another declares that the situation constitutes a fire hazard and** provided, however, that consent and direction in writing from the forestry department shall be required for the burning of such brush or slash or for the burning of blueberry land and grass land adjacent to any forest growth except when the ground is covered with snow. The forest commissioner shall cause to be furnished to all the chief forest fire wardens and to the municipal officers of all towns and organized plantations of the state, blank permits, signed by him, for the burning of brush or slash or for the burning of blueberry land and grass land adjacent to any forest growth. Any chief forest fire warden or the municipal officers of the town, in the county where the land is located, shall have full authority to countersign and grant such permits signed by the forest commissioner. The forest commissioner, may, however, in any particular case called to his attention, overrule the decision of the chief forest fire warden or the municipal officers, and himself grant the permit asked for or forbid the granting of the same. **Also provided, that such slash and debris, which is not burned in accordance with terms of this section, shall be so broadcast as to keep the hazard on the tract at a minimum.**

Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section shall on conviction thereof be punished by a fine of \$50.'