

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1040**

H. P. 1785

House of Representatives, March 21, 1941.

Reported by Mr. Lambert from Committee on Interior Waters 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 to Establish a Sanitary Water Board and to Control, Prevent and Abate Pollution of Certain Waters in the State.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, the pollution of the Androscoggin river has created a situation dangerous to life and property; and

Whereas, the following bill will aid in controlling the said pollution; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. Sanitary water board, members, technical secretary, meetings, powers.** There is hereby created and established a sanitary water board consisting of the commissioner of health and welfare, the commissioner of agriculture, the commissioner of inland fisheries and game, the chairman of the public utilities commission, 2 representatives of the manufacturing interests of the state, and 2 representatives of the municipalities. The representatives of the manufacturing interests and of the municipalities shall be appointed by the governor and shall hold office for 4 years and until their successors are appointed and duly qualified; the other members shall hold

office for such period of time as they shall continue in their respective offices and they shall receive no additional compensation for their services as members of the board other than that provided by law or by appropriation by the legislature for their respective positions as heads of state departments; the members appointed by the governor shall receive no compensation for their services, but they shall receive necessary traveling expenses for attending any meeting of the board, or for trips which they, or any of them, may make in connection with the work of the board and under the specific authority of the board, which traveling expenses shall be paid out of the contingent fund but shall under no circumstances exceed, for either of the fiscal years ending June 30, 1942 or June 30, 1943, the amount of \$100 for each such member.

Meetings of the board shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by a majority of the board, and at the first meeting of the board, after this act shall become effective, one of its members shall be elected to serve as chairman, but in his absence or on his resignation another member of the board shall be chosen so to serve. Five members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

It shall be the duty of the sanitary water board to study, investigate, and from time to time recommend to the persons responsible for the conditions, ways and means of eliminating from the streams and waters of this state, so far as practicable, all substances and materials which pollute, or tend to pollute, the same, and to endeavor to determine, and to recommend, methods, as far as practicable, of preventing pollution that is detrimental to the public health or to the health of animals, fish or aquatic life, or detrimental to the practicable use of said rivers and waters for recreational purposes.

**Sec. 2. Cooperation.** The sanitary water board hereby is authorized to cooperate with other departments of this state and with any other state or states and with the federal government for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act relating to rivers and waters which run through this state and any other state or states; and said board hereby is authorized to cooperate with the federal government for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act relating to any and all rivers and waters which, in whole or in part, are located in or run through this state.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.