

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 559**

H. P. 1070

House of Representatives, February 17, 1943.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Hutchins of Bangor.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Relating to Audit and Use of Funds of Maine Forestry District.**

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

**Sec. 1. P. L., 1931, c. 216, Art. VI, § 3, sub-§ 5, amended.** Subsection 5 of section 3 of Article VI of chapter 216 of the public laws of 1931, as amended by chapter 27 of the public laws of 1941, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

‘5. To perform a postaudit of all accounts and other financial records of the state normal schools ~~and~~, the Port of Portland Authority, ~~and the Maine Forestry District~~, the expenses of such audits to be paid respectively by the state normal schools ~~and~~, the Port of Portland Authority, ~~and the Maine Forestry District;~~’

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 11, § 74, amended.** Section 74 of chapter 11 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘**Sec. 74. Use of funds; when insufficient, payments from state treasury; audit of accounts.** The tax assessed by authority of section 69 shall be ~~held by the treasurer of state~~ **recorded on the books of the state in a separate account** as a fund to be used to protect from fire the forests situated upon

and within the district, and to pay expenses incidental thereto and for no other purpose, except that upon receipt of information from the forest commissioner that there is in said fund a certain sum in excess of the amount necessary for the protection of the forests in said district from fire, the governor and council may ~~issue their warrant to the treasurer of state~~ authorize the state controller to refund proportionately to the land owners paying the tax assessed as aforesaid, such sum or sums as shall be recommended by the forest commissioner. ~~The governor and council shall from time to time as the forest commissioner may request issue their warrant to the treasurer of state to pay to said commissioner such sums of money as said commissioner may deem necessary for the purpose aforesaid.~~ If the tax assessed by authority of section 69 ~~has not been collected or~~ for any reason is not available for the purpose aforesaid or if said tax proves insufficient in any year to properly carry out said purpose, the governor and council may ~~issue their warrant to the treasurer of state, authorizing him to advance and pay to the forest commissioner~~ make available for said purposes from any moneys then in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sum or sums of money as they may deem necessary for such purpose. **Annually on February 1st a petty cash advance of \$10,000 from the proceeds of said tax shall be made by the state controller to the forest commissioner who shall set the same aside as an "Emergency Fire Fighting Fund" and who may expend therefrom for fire fighting purposes of an emergency nature. He shall make to the state controller accountings as necessary, but in any event monthly, of such expenditures and thereupon the state controller shall, upon audit, promptly reimburse therefor so that said petty cash advance shall be always available to the forest commissioner as above provided. The accounts of the commissioner of the disbursement of all funds shall be examined by the state auditor for the purpose of determining if said accounts are correctly kept and all payments properly vouched for. Except as above provided, the expenditures of forestry district funds shall be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 216 of the public laws of 1931. The forest commissioner may employ from time to time such clerks in his office as will enable him to pay promptly all bills contracted in carrying carry out the provisions hereof and the compensation of such clerks shall be paid from funds provided for the district.'**