

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 414

H. P. 791

House of Representatives, February 7, 1945.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Haskell of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

RESOLVE, Appropriating Money for a Forest Survey.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, a state-wide forest survey is of vital importance to our economy in planning for employment of our returning citizens from the armed forces; and

Whereas, the present war demands are making inroads on our forest capital stock; and

Whereas, the demand for forest products for war needs threaten the future productivity of our forests; and

Whereas, it is essential that we should have basic information on volume of our forest stands and annual growth in order to plan the proper use and utilization of our most valuable resource; 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 of Maine, and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Forest survey; appropriation. Resolved: That there be, and hereby

is, appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for the period April 1, 1945 to July 1, 1947 to be expended under the direction of the forest commissioner.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A state-wide forests survey would provide basic information upon which efficient planning, administration, development and use of our 16,270,000 acres of forest ground is dependent. The work, essentially aerial photography, is already partially completed by various federal agencies and in conjunction with ground checks would serve to make available accurate maps and estimate volumes of forest growth, as stated for the first Forest Service project in Postwar Planning Report of the Maine Development Commission.

The basis of good planning for perpetuating our forest growth depends upon establishing an equal balance between annual cut and annual growth, together with adequate protection and proper cutting practices. We cannot plan until we know what we have and what we are growing. Neither can we afford, on our vast acreages, to finance a state-wide survey. We can, however, obtain figures on a sizeable area of approximately 1,000,000 acres by taking advantage of existing photographs which can be purchased from the AAA, the USGS, and the Brown Company, and cooperating with the American Forestry Association who will make photographs for the state of Maine to fill in photographs of areas to connect up with existing ones. About \$1,000 will be needed for the purchase of photographs and \$9,000 for employment of personnel to interpret photographs and to do field work on the ground to obtain measurements in checking photographic interpretation.