

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 481

H. P. 832

House of Representatives, February 5, 1947.

On motion of Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth taken from the table and on further motion same gentleman referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Ordered printed and sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Institute a Land Use Survey.

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

Sec. 1. Survey for most efficient use of land. The Maine Development Commission, acting with the advice and assistance of state officials and departments concerned, is hereby instructed and empowered to institute and to conduct a survey of the land resources within the state, with a view to determine the best potential use of land by areas generally designated and approximately bounded, whether best adapted for development in agriculture, forest, recreation, industrial or other purpose or combination of purposes. Upon the basis of its determinations, the commission is directed to report its recommendations to the next legislature, and, with respect to such matters as in its judgment appear proper subjects for legislation, to prepare and to present a bill or bills designed to declare, institute and implement a policy for the government of the state to guide and control state officials and state agencies, to the eventual end that all persons whom the legislature has power to control under the existing provisions of the constitution of Maine shall be bound to conform in their actions to such declaration of state policy with respect to the most efficient use of land as a long-term aim.

To the extent of available means, and subject to its own judgment as to the priority of matters in importance, the commission may prepare and present proposals for a policy of state aid and state expenditure on roads and schools which shall visualize probable trends in population away from areas not suitable for habitation and towards areas better suited. It may propose amendments to existing laws with respect to care and cutting of forests. It may estimate the cost of completing soil surveys on all arable land and propose a plan for completing such soil surveys. In general, it may consider and report upon other practicable, desirable and constitutional measures which would encourage and promote the conservation of land resources and the most productive use thereof, including the responsibility of private owners for good care of land.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. For the use of the commission in making this survey and report, the sum of \$20,000 is hereby appropriated.