

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 1173

H. P. 1543

House of Representatives, February 27, 1947

Transmitted by the revisor of statutes pursuant to joint order

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Peirce of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT Setting Aside Certain Lands for Settlement by Displaced Persons
of Baltic Origin.**

Preamble. Whereas, the problem of the resettlement and readjustment of displaced persons of Europe is one of the major problems confronting framers of permanent world peace; and

The people of the state of Maine, descendants of former tyranny's refugees who sought freedom and opportunity within these boundaries, express deep sympathy for the plight of today's displaced persons; and

The people of this state have great faith in its future economic and cultural development; and

The economy and culture of the state, temporarily weakened and threatened by the removal at the present time of many of its young men and women to other states, would be and strengthened by immigrant settlers from other lands; and

The contribution already made to the state's economy and culture by settlers of Scandinavian and Baltic origin, among others, is of great value and could well be increased by such additional settlers; and

Among the displaced persons of Europe, those of Baltic origin, i. e. natives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, appear to be particularly adaptable for settlement in this state by reason of similarities in the natural economy and climate of Maine and those countries; and

It seems likely that displaced persons from these Baltic nations will never be able to return to their native lands which have lost their sovereignty and have been absorbed by a stronger power; now therefore,

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

R. S., c. 32, §§ 49-A - 49-C, additional. Chapter 32 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 3 new sections to be numbered 49-A to 49-C, inclusive, to read as follows:

Sec. 49-A. Statement of policy. It shall be and is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Maine to encourage the settlement within its borders of immigrants from displaced persons of Baltic origin; provided nevertheless that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to discourage immigrants of other nationalities.

Sec. 49-B. Execution of policy. The state of Maine through its duly elected officers is hereby authorized to set aside and convey to such immigrants, or to philanthropic organizations for the use of such immigrants, those public lands to which it has title and which it deems suitable for settlement and development. The state tax assessor with the consent of the governor and council, and the state forestry commissioner with the consent of the governor and council are empowered by this act to execute in the name of the state of Maine such deeds of conveyance or lease as may be necessary to effectuate the policy set forth in section one.

Sec. 49-C. Maine development commission to arrange for settlement through negotiations with the department of state and the United Nations. The Maine development commission is hereby empowered and authorized to negotiate with the U. S. Department of State and with the United Nations, or with any proper agency or department of the United Nations, to arrange for the settlement in this state of such immigrants among displaced persons of Baltic origin who are able to buy, or who may have bought for them, public lands owned by the state or private property within the state owned by private persons.'