

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 385**

H. P. 944

House of Representatives, February 4, 1949.

Referred to Committee on State Lands and Forest Preservation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Benn of Smyrna.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-NINE

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**RESOLVE Appropriating Money for the Study and Control of the Spruce  
Budworm.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, parts of adjoining Canada are having severe infestations of and damage from the spruce budworm in spruce and fir stands; and

Whereas, the spruce budworm caused severe losses in Maine amounting to estimates of 27,500,000 cords during the last outbreaks of this insect from 1910-1919; and

Whereas, an alarming infestation of the spruce budworm developed in northern Maine in 1948 in the northeastern section of Aroostook county; and

Whereas, it has been deemed essential by federal and state forest entomologists that large scale aeroplane spraying be conducted in June of 1949 on both a control and experimental basis which will occur before regular appropriations become available on July 1; and

Whereas, no other funds are available for this work; and

Whereas, the Federal Forest Pest Control Act, whereby, federal funds of \$35,000 are planned for the spraying project dependent upon the appli-

tion of private and state funds totalling \$15,000, \$7,500 of which private sources have agreed to supply; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning 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

**Spruce budworm, appropriation for study and control of. Resolved:** That there be, and hereby is, appropriated for spruce budworm study and control the sum of \$7,500 for the period May 1, 1949 to July 1, 1949 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

During the period 1910-1919 the spruce budworm killed 27,500,000 cords of spruce and fir in Maine. This amounted to seventy percent of the state's balsam fir and thirty percent of its spruce. This insect is again building up in the state, apparently moving in from Ontario and Quebec where it has lately devastated vast areas of spruce and fir. Through its forest detection service, Maine has kept close watch over the gradual increase of the insect in the state. There are a number of areas near Stockholm, in northeastern Maine where the infestation has reached the point at which both federal and state authorities feel that aeroplane spraying should be done this coming June 1949, on 20,000 acres. This spraying will cost approximately \$50,000 for the double basis of study and control. At a meeting of timberland owners, federal and state officials it was proposed that the federal government would assume responsibility for the major part of the cost under the Federal Forest Pest Control Act, and that the remainder would have to be supplied by the state and landowners with the state proposing to appropriate \$7,500, landowners \$7,500. Aeroplane spraying has proved 95% to 99% effective against the spruce budworm in other areas. Spraying must be done in June when the larvae are feeding. A careful inspection of the area indicates that the infestation will be heavy this coming June.