

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 818

H. P. 1279

House of Representatives, February 21, 1951.

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Potter of Medway.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-ONE

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AN ACT Relating to the Kindling of Fires on Land.

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

**R. S., c. 33, § 72, amended.** Section 72 of chapter 33 of the revised statutes, as revised, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 72. Kindling fire on land, without consent of owner; erecting shelter or tents; penalty.** Non-residents shall not kindle fires upon any unorganized township, while engaged in camping, fishing or hunting from May 1st to November 30th, inclusive, **except when the ground is covered with snow**, without being in charge of a registered guide except at public camp sites or luncheon grounds maintained by the forestry department. No guide shall be employed by more than 3 non-residents while hunting at the same time.

Public camp sites and luncheon grounds maintained by the forestry department are for the travelling public's use as a measure to prevent forest fires.

**Residents, including registered guides, timber operators, and cruisers, desiring to kindle or build fires in unorganized townships, other than at camp**

sites and luncheon grounds authorized by the forestry department, must obtain permission from the chief forest fire warden or his representative in charge of the area from May 1st to November 1st. Permission will be given based on local fire danger station readings when they indicate open fires should be safe at suitable locations. Those desiring permission must give dates and approximate locations where lunch fires are planned. This permission in no way relieves the person or persons obtaining it of legal responsibility if the fire is allowed to escape or causes damage to property.

It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to erect any trailer shelter or tent from ~~June 1 to September 30~~ May 1st to November 30th at any public camp site or luncheon ground maintained by the forestry department within the state and leave such shelter or tent for later occupation. It shall also be unlawful to erect any shelter or tent nearer than 20 feet from any fireplace at any public camp site or luncheon ground. Persons having already occupied a camp site or luncheon ground maintained by the forestry department for more than 1 week shall leave at the request of the forest commissioner or his representatives, or any fish and game warden. The failure of any person to comply with the provisions of this section, shall on conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than \$10, nor more than \$100, or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.'