

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 1262

H. P. 1079

House of Representatives, March 9, 1955

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Williams of Hodgdon.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Kindling Fires on Land.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 36, § 94-A, additional. Chapter 36 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding a new section to be numbered 94-A to read as follows:

'Kindling fires.

Sec. 94-A. Kindling fires. No person shall kindle or use fires on land of another without permission of the owner, except at public camp sites and lunch grounds maintained or authorized by the Forestry Department, or when the ground is covered with snow. This includes sterno, gasoline, charcoal or other fuel fires in or out of tents and collapsible shelters, which are considered out-of-door fires. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the authority of State Forest Fire Wardens to set backfires to control a going forest fire.

To better accommodate recreational and sporting users of the woods and to prevent forest fires in the Maine Forestry District, the Forest Commissioner or his representatives are hereby authorized to issue permits for out-of-door fires and camping, except on areas that the majority ownership of any given area may withdraw at any time in writing to the Forest Commissioner. Persons issued permits are in no way relieved of legal responsibility if their fires escape and cause damage to property. When forest fire conditions become serious, the Forest Commissioner or his representatives may declare void permits already issued. Forest fire danger indexes will be used as a basis of determining when forest fire conditions are safe to issue permits. Heavy use areas will, of necessity, be serviced by public camp sites and lunch grounds instead of individual permits.

Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall on conviction be punished by a fine of not more than \$300, or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. All fines, penalties, warden costs, and all other moneys collected by the court shall be paid to the Treasurer of State and credited to the District for forest fire purposes.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 37, § 82, repealed. Section 82 of chapter 37 of the revised statutes, which pertains to kindling fires, is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 97, § 36, repealed. Section 36 of chapter 97 of the revised statutes, having to do with kindling fires, is hereby repealed.