

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 185

H. P. 127

House of Representatives, January 28, 1959.

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Brockway of Milo.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to Planting Forest Nursery Tree Seedlings.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment; and

Whereas, there are 16½ million forest tree seedlings on order or sign-up to meet the needs of the Federal Soil Bank, Agricultural Conservation Reserve, and private financial planting, and between 6 and 7 million seedlings will be available for planting in the fall of 1959 and spring of 1960; and

Whereas, this volume of seedlings requires the use of planting machines not now available and the date of ordering such machines must be advanced to assure delivery and the hiring of labor and tractors in time for planting in 1959; and

Whereas, time is required to obtain approval of planting areas and tree assignment well in advance of actual planting operations; and

Whereas, the following legislation is immediately necessary in order to assure the planting of forest tree seedlings, already growing at the State Nursery, on abandoned fields, pastures, cut-over and burned areas, and such plantings provide for the growing and harvesting of future timber crops on which the economy of Maine is dependent; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$17,000 to be made available and used by the State of Maine Forestry Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1961 for the purchase of planting machines.

Sec. 2. Repayment. Receipts from rental of the planting machines to the amount of \$17,000 shall be credited to the General Fund. Receipts over this amount will be returned to Appropriation 4130 for use in the continued growing of forest tree seedlings.

Emergency Clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

During the coming biennium about 17 million forest tree seedlings will be produced in Maine and about 3½ million each year thereafter.

Planting Machines. Planting by machine is 10 times faster than by hand. In a season one machine can plant approximately 200,000 seedlings depending upon weather, soil, and topography conditions. Because of the short season in the spring and fall it is necessary to plant rapidly to meet the impact of forest tree seedlings available each year from the State Forest Nursery. Under the Federal Soil Bank, Agricultural Conservation Reserve, and private financial programs, planting machines are the only answer if the tremendous task of getting these tree seedlings into the ground is to be accomplished.

Planting Machine Purchase Cost. For the job to be done in the planting program, various types of machines are needed depending upon soil and topography conditions. It is anticipated that the purchase of 17 planting machines will cost approximately \$1,000 each.

Planting Machine Rental. Planting machine rentals will vary from \$4 to \$6 per thousand trees planted. The farmer or woodlot owner will be charged the prevailing rental fee for the use of these machines in his area. It is anticipated that planting machine rentals will provide the \$17,000. Any future rental income over this amount is needed for continued operation of the State Forest Nursery.