

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. 322

S. P. 127

In Senate, February 3, 1959.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Cole of Waldo.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-NINE

AN ACT Providing for Forest Rehabilitation.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 36, § 94-B, additional. Chapter 36 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding a new section to be numbered 94-B, to read as follows:

'Forest Rehabilitation.

Sec. 94-B. Forest rehabilitation. The Forest Commissioner shall carry out a forest rehabilitation program on unstocked and poorly stocked potential forest land either public or private with first priority to burned areas. He shall make use of federal funds as and if available and of inmates of state institutions, including penal, whenever possible or feasible. The State shall participate in the cost of such forest rehabilitation up to 50% of the total cost on private land including the value of the trees.'

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$10,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960 and \$10,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1961 to carry out the purposes of this act. Any unexpended balances shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

This act is to provide for a continuation of the forest rehabilitation program as a regular activity of the forestry department. During the fiscal years 1958 and 1959 the Legislature appropriated by resolve the sum of \$10,000 for each year to carry out this program as part of the Federal Soil Bank known as Title IV with federal matching funds available. Under this program the department carried out site preparation work on approximately 900 acres of the 1947 disaster area in southwestern Maine to kill back weak hardwood growth foliage and release white pine coming in or for planting. Over 200 acres were planted on this burned land.

Funds for Title IV of the Federal Soil Bank have been dropped, but as a good, sound, progressive forestry measure this program should be permitted to continue to get back into forest production some of the waste burned areas, and unstocked and poorly stocked lands. Nursery stock will be grown at the State Forest Nursery.

This act and appropriation will assure permanency of the program.