

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. 361

H. P. 250

House of Representatives, February 3, 1959

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Maddox of Vinalhaven.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-NINE

**AN ACT Authorizing Forest Commissioner to Convey Interest of the State
in Chase Island.**

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

Interest of State in Chase Island, conveyed. The Forest Commissioner is authorized to convey by quitclaim deed any interest the State may have in and to Chase Island (Widow's Island), in the County of Knox, to such person or persons as shall have, on the effective date of this act, deeds and conveyances of record purporting to convey to them title to said island; and said island shall be taxed under the provisions of the Revised Statutes of 1954, chapter 16, sections 78 to 85, and in no other way.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In 1887 the State of Maine ceded Widow's Island to the United States of America. In 1903 the United States of America conveyed the island to the State of Maine, to be used for public purposes, subject to several conditions, one of which was that if the State of Maine should at any time cease or fail to use the property for public purposes it should immediately revert to the United States. The State of Maine used the property for patients of the Augusta State Hospital. In 1907 the name of the island was changed to Chase Island. In 1913 the State Legislature enacted a law reserving to the State the title to all islands in the sea, within its jurisdiction, for public use. In 1930 the State of Maine advised the United States of America that the island had ceased to be used for public purposes. The United States resumed its jurisdiction over the island. On December 20, 1957, the United States sold the island at auction. The action of the Legislature of 1913 could create an argumentative question in regard to the chain of title to the island.