

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 1, 2004 to March 30, 2005

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 4, 2005 to June 18, 2005

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2005

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Penmor Lithographers
Lewiston, Maine
2005

under Title 17-A, section 1101, subsection 23. A safe zone designated pursuant to this section must be conspicuously marked by the municipality with an informational sign using wording provided by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Sec. 6. Safe zone informational signs. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall establish uniform wording to be used on a safe zone informational sign under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 3253 and shall upon a request from a municipality provide the municipality with a copy of that wording electronically or by other means. The commissioner is not responsible for providing the safe zone informational sign.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 416

H.P. 902 - L.D. 1305

An Act To Encourage Long-term Holding of Maine Timberland and Sustainable Forest Management

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶Q, as corrected by RR 2003, c. 1, §38, is amended to read:

Q. A fraction of any amount previously added back by the taxpayer to federal adjusted gross income pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph N.

(1) With respect to property first placed in service during taxable years beginning in 2002, the adjustment under this paragraph is available for each year during the recovery period, beginning 2 years after the beginning of the taxable year during which the property was first placed in service. The fraction is equal to the amount added back under subsection 1, paragraph N with respect to the property, divided by the number of years in the recovery period minus 2.

(2) With respect to all other property, for the taxable year immediately following the taxable year during which the property was first placed in service, the fraction allowed by this paragraph is equal to 5% of the amount added back under subsection 1, paragraph N with respect to the property. For each subsequent taxable year during the recovery period, the fraction is equal to 95% of the amount added back under subsection 1, paragraph N with respect to the

property, divided by the number of years in the recovery period minus 2.

In the case of property expensed pursuant to Section 179 of the Code, the term "recovery period" means the recovery period that would have been applicable to the property had Section 179 not been applied; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶T, as amended by PL 2003, c. 705, §12 and affected by §14, is further amended to read:

T. For income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2002 and before January 1, 2004, an amount equal to the total premiums spent for long-term care insurance policies certified under Title 24-A, section 5075-A as long as the amount subtracted is reduced by the long-term care premiums claimed as an itemized deduction pursuant to section 5125.

For income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2004, an amount equal to the total premiums spent for qualified long-term care insurance contracts certified under Title 24-A, section 5075-A, as long as the amount subtracted is reduced by any amount claimed as a deduction for federal income tax purposes in accordance with the Code, Section 162(l) and by the long-term care premiums claimed as an itemized deduction pursuant to section 5125; and

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶U is enacted to read:

U. For income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, the gain attributable to the sale of sustainably managed, eligible timberlands as calculated in this paragraph.

(1) As used in this paragraph, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

(a) "Commercial harvesting" or "commercially harvested" means the harvesting of forest products that have commercial value.

(b) "Eligible timberlands" means land of at least 10 acres located in the State and used primarily for the growth of trees to be commercially harvested. Land that would otherwise be included within this definition may not be excluded because of:

(i) Use of the land for multiple public recreation activities;

(ii) Statutory or governmental restrictions that prevent commercial harvesting of trees or require a primary use of the land other than commercial harvesting;

(iii) Deed restrictions, restrictive covenants or organizational charters that prevent commercial harvesting of trees or require a primary use of land other than commercial harvesting and that were effective prior to January 1, 1982; or

(iv) Past or present multiple use for mineral exploration.

(c) "Forest products that have commercial value" means logs, pulpwood, veneer, bolt wood, wood chips, stud wood, poles, pilings, biomass, fuel wood, Christmas trees, maple syrup, nursery products used for ornamental purposes, wreaths, bough material or cones or other seed products.

(d) "Sustainably managed" means:

(i) A forest management and harvest plan, as defined in section 573, subsection 3-A, has been prepared for the eligible timberlands and has been in effect for the entire time period used to compute the amount of the subtraction modification under this paragraph; and

(ii) The taxpayer has received a written statement from a licensed forester certifying that, as of the time of the sale, the eligible timberlands have been managed in accordance with the plan under subdivision (i) during that period.

(2) To the extent they are included in the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income, the following amounts must be subtracted from federal adjusted gross income:

(a) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 10-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than an 11-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 1/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(b) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least an 11-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 12-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 2/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(c) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 12-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 13-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 1/5 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(d) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 13-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 14-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 4/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(e) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 14-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 15-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 1/3 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(f) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 15-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 16-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 2/5 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(g) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 16-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 17-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 7/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(h) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 17-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than an 18-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 8/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(i) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least an 18-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 19-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005,

3/5 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(j) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 19-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 20-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 2/3 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(k) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 20-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 21-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 11/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(l) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 21-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 22-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 4/5 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(m) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 22-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 23-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 13/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(n) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 23-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 24-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 14/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands; or

(o) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 24-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, all of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands.

(3) Taxpayers claiming this credit must attach a sworn statement from a forester licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 76 that the timberlands for which the credit is claimed have been managed sustainably. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "sustainably" means that the timberlands for which the credit is claimed have been managed to protect soil productivity and to maintain or improve stand productivity and timber quality; known occurrences of threatened or endangered species and rare

or exemplary natural communities; significant wildlife habitat and essential wildlife habitat; and water quality, wetlands and riparian zones.

Upon request of the State Tax Assessor, the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation may provide assistance in determining whether timberlands for which the credit is claimed have been managed sustainably. When assistance is requested under this subparagraph, the director or the director's designee may enter and examine the timberlands for the purpose of determining whether the timberlands have been managed sustainably.

In the case of timberlands owned by an entity that is treated as a pass-through entity for income tax purposes, the land must be treated as eligible timberland if ownership and use of the land by the pass-through entity satisfies the requirements of this paragraph. If the owner of the eligible timberlands is an S corporation, the taxpayer must subtract the owner's pro rata share of the gain. If the owner of the timberlands is a partnership or limited liability company taxed as a partnership, the taxpayer must subtract the taxpayer's distributive share of the gain, subject to the percentage limitations provided in this paragraph.

This modification may not reduce Maine taxable income to less than zero. To the extent this modification results in Maine taxable income that is less than zero for the taxable year, the excess negative modification amount may be carried forward and applied as a subtraction modification for up to 10 taxable years. The entire amount of the excess negative modification must be carried to the earliest of the taxable years to which, by reason of this subsection, the negative modification may be carried and then to each of the other taxable years to the extent the unused negative modification is not used for a prior taxable year. Earlier carry-forward modifications must be used before newer modifications generated in later years.

Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶L, as amended by PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. EE, §3, is further amended to read:

L. An amount equal to the absolute value of any net operating loss arising from a tax year beginning or ending in 2001 for which federal taxable income was increased under subsection 1, paragraph M and that, pursuant to Section 102 of the federal Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act

of 2002, Public Law 107-147, was carried back more than 2 years to the taxable year for federal income tax purposes, but only to the extent that:

- (1) Maine taxable income is not reduced below zero;
- (2) The taxable year is either within 2 years prior to the year in which the loss arose or within the allowable federal period for carry-over of net operating losses; and
- (3) The amount has not been previously used as a modification pursuant to this subsection; ~~and~~

Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶M, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 479, §6, is amended to read:

M. A fraction of any amount previously added back by the taxpayer to federal taxable income pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph N.

- (1) With respect to property first placed in service during taxable years beginning in 2002, the adjustment under this paragraph is available for each year during the recovery period, beginning 2 years after the beginning of the taxable year during which the property was first placed in service. The fraction is equal to the amount added back under subsection 1, paragraph N with respect to the property, divided by the number of years in the recovery period minus 2.
- (2) With respect to all other property, for the taxable year immediately following the taxable year during which the property was first placed in service, the fraction allowed by this paragraph is equal to 5% of the amount added back under subsection 1, paragraph N with respect to the property. For each subsequent taxable year during the recovery period, the fraction is equal to 95% of the amount added back under subsection 1, paragraph N with respect to the property, divided by the number of years in the recovery period minus 2.

In the case of property expensed pursuant to Section 179 of the Code, the term "recovery period" means the recovery period that would have been applicable to the property had Section 179 not been applied; ~~and~~

Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶P is enacted to read:

P. For income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015, the gain attributable to the sale of sustainably managed, eligible timberlands as calculated pursuant to this paragraph.

(1) As used in this paragraph, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

(a) "Commercial harvesting" or "commercially harvested" means the harvesting of forest products that have commercial value.

(b) "Eligible timberlands" means land of at least 10 acres located in the State and used primarily for the growth of trees to be commercially harvested. Land that would otherwise be included within this definition may not be excluded because of:

(i) Use of the land for multiple public recreation activities;

(ii) Statutory or governmental restrictions that prevent commercial harvesting of trees or require a primary use of the land other than commercial harvesting;

(iii) Deed restrictions, restrictive covenants or organizational charters that prevent commercial harvesting of trees or require a primary use of land other than commercial harvesting and that were effective prior to January 1, 1982; or

(iv) Past or present multiple use for mineral exploration.

(c) "Forest products that have commercial value" means logs, pulpwood, veneer, bolt wood, wood chips, stud wood, poles, pilings, biomass, fuel wood, Christmas trees, maple syrup, nursery products used for ornamental purposes, wreaths, bough material or cones or other seed products.

(d) "Sustainably managed" means:

(i) A forest management and harvest plan, as defined in section 573, subsection 3-A, has been prepared for the eligible timberlands and has been in effect for the entire time period

used to compute the amount of the subtraction modification under this paragraph; and

(ii) The taxpayer has received a written statement from a licensed forester certifying that, as of the time of the sale, the eligible timberlands have been managed in accordance with the plan under subdivision (i) during that period.

(2) To the extent included in the taxpayer's taxable income under the laws of the United States, the taxable income of the taxpayer under the laws of the United States must be decreased by:

(a) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 10-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than an 11-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 1/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(b) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least an 11-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 12-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 2/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(c) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 12-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 13-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 1/5 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(d) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 13-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 14-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 4/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(e) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 14-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 15-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 1/3 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(f) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 15-year pe-

riod beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 16-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 2/5 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(g) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 16-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 17-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 7/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(h) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 17-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than an 18-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 8/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(i) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least an 18-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 19-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 3/5 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(j) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 19-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 20-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 2/3 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(k) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 20-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 21-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 11/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(l) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 21-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 22-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 4/5 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(m) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 22-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 23-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 13/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands;

(n) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 23-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005 but less than a 24-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, 14/15 of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands; or

(o) For eligible timberlands held by the taxpayer for at least a 24-year period beginning on or after January 1, 2005, all of the gain recognized on the sale of the eligible timberlands.

(3) Taxpayers claiming this credit must attach a sworn statement from a forester licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 76 that the timberlands for which the credit is claimed have been managed sustainably. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "sustainably" means that the timberlands for which the credit is claimed have been managed to protect soil productivity and to maintain or improve stand productivity and timber quality; known occurrences of threatened or endangered species and rare or exemplary natural communities; significant wildlife habitat and essential wildlife habitat; and water quality, wetlands and riparian zones.

Upon request of the State Tax Assessor, the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation may provide assistance in determining whether timberlands for which the credit is claimed have been managed sustainably. When assistance is requested under this subparagraph, the director or the director's designee may enter and examine the timberlands for the purpose of determining whether the timberlands have been managed sustainably.

In the case of timberlands owned by an entity that is treated as a pass-through entity for income tax purposes, the land must be treated as eligible timberland if ownership and use of the land by the pass-through entity satisfies the requirements of this paragraph. If the owner of the eligible timberlands is an S corporation, the taxpayer must subtract the owner's pro rata share of the gain. If the owner of the timberlands is a partnership or limited liability company taxed as a partnership, the taxpayer must subtract the taxpayer's distributive share of the gain, subject to the percentage limitations provided in this paragraph.

This modification may not reduce Maine taxable income to less than zero. To the extent this modification results in Maine taxable income that is less than zero for the taxable year, the excess negative modification amount may be carried forward and applied as a subtraction modification for up to 10 taxable years. The entire amount of the excess negative modification must be carried to the earliest of the taxable years to which, by reason of this subsection, the negative modification may be carried and then to each of the other taxable years to the extent the unused negative modification is not used for a prior taxable year. Earlier carry-forward modifications must be used before newer modifications generated in later years.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 417

H.P. 1051 - L.D. 1494

An Act To Increase Faculty in Maine Nursing Education Programs

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 110, sub-c. 1-E is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 1-E

NURSING EDUCATION

§1019. Nursing education loan repayment program

1. **Nursing education loan repayment program.** The nursing education loan repayment program is established for the purpose of increasing the number of nursing faculty in nursing education programs in the State.

2. **Criteria.** For an applicant to participate in the nursing education loan repayment program established under subsection 1, the applicant must:

A. Be a nurse;

B. Complete a master's or doctoral degree in nursing;

C. Possess an outstanding education loan relating to the master's or doctoral nursing degree; and

D. Sign a statement of intent in a form acceptable to the authority to work as nursing faculty in