

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS LEGISLATION

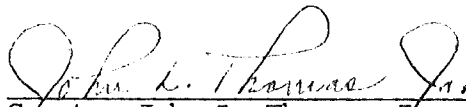
February 23, 1976

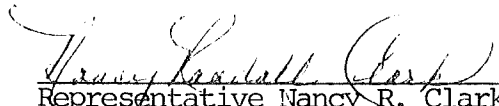
Legislative Council  
107th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Members of this Council:

In accordance with H.P. 1705, an ORDER directing the Committee on Business Legislation to study organized children's camps in Maine, a copy of the Final Report of the Committee is attached.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator John L. Thomas, Jr.  
Co-chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Nancy R. Clark  
Co-chairperson

enclosure  
DS/sym

REPORT OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS LEGISLATION  
ON  
ORGANIZED CHILDREN'S CAMPS IN MAINE

November 1975

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## I. BACKGROUND

In accordance with HP 1705 (Appendix A), the Committee coordinated with the Organized Camping Resources Office, Center for Research and Advanced Study, University of Maine at Portland-Gorham.

### A. Initial Meeting of Representatives of the Camping Industry and the Center for Research and Advanced Study, UM-PG, with Committee Staff.

On August 12, 1975, representatives of the camping industry and the Center for Research and Advanced Study met with the Committee staff met to discuss HP 1705. The persons attending this meeting are included in Appendix B.

The camping industry and Center representatives were seeking State funds from the Legislature (and any State agency) to enable the Center to carry out a study of this industry. During the meeting these representatives stated that:

1. The study is to consider the economic impact of the industry on the State and possible new uses of its facilities and personnel which will benefit the industry, campers, and the State.
2. The study has been begun, and will be supported until December, 1975, by camping industry funds and the Center.
3. If funded, the study should be completed by mid-or late 1977.
4. State funds of \$100,000 are needed for that part of the study which will be carried out during calendar year 1976.
5. The study proposal and a request for \$100,000 have been sent to OEO.

Arguments for State funding of the study put forward by the camping industry and Center representatives present at this meeting included:

1. Camping is an industry that should be promoted by the State because it (a) is clean (not a pollutor); (b) keeps intact large blocks of prime land which otherwise would be developed; (c) provides a valu-

able service to society and has the potential to provide new types of services to Maine residents through off-season use of camping facilities; and (d) has a favorable economic impact on the State.

2. A mechanism (i.e., the Camping Resources Office at the Center) has been established to conduct the study, which the camping industry strongly endorses.
3. The camping industry is in economic trouble. The State should help the industry because the Industry is trying to help itself.

B. Public Hearings Held before the Business Legislation Committee on HP 1705.

During September and October, 1975, two public hearings were held at which testimony was offered by representatives of the Center for Research and Advanced Study at UM-PG and officers and members of the Maine Camp Directors Association. The names of the persons who testified at these hearings are included in Appendix B.

The testimony focused on several points, including:

1. The Maine Camping industry is in serious economic trouble due to rising property taxes, inflation, and dependence on a short season.
2. A research study outline has already been developed. In response to this situation, the Center for Research and Advanced Study and the Maine Camp Directors Association have developed a research study outline which would (a) evaluate the economic impact of the industry upon the State\*, (b) inventory the resources of the industry, and (c) develop new programs which would help ameliorate the industry's plight. The study is to be directed and conducted by the Center. Funds are needed to carry out this study.
3. Representatives of the Center and the Association initially asked for state funds of \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year for 2 years to conduct the study, but they later withdrew their request after being advised of the State's budget situation. Subsequently, the representatives asked for "any support" which the Committee could give.

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\* Part of the evaluation of economic impact of the Camping industry on the State has already been completed by the Center. See pp. 4-5 for a summary of this evaluation.

4. The State should help fund or support the study. The arguments presented by the camping industry and Center representatives during the public hearings were almost identical to the arguments previously described under Section I, Part A of this report (pp. 1-2). An additional argument raised during the hearings was that State support of the Center's study on Maine's camping industry would serve as a bellweather, attracting non-State funds by indicating to various foundations which the Center might approach for grants that the State identifies the plight of the industry as a problem.

## II. REVIEW OF STUDY PROPOSED AND PARTIALLY COMPLETED BY THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND ADVANCED STUDY.

As previously mentioned in this report the Organized Camping Resources Office, Center for Research and Advanced Study, has proposed and partially implemented a study of the camping industry in Maine.

### A. Proposed Phases of the Study.

Phase I: "The Economic Impact of Maine's Organized Summer Camps" was begun on July 1st 1974. The first stage of Phase I, "Tourism Dollars Generated", was completed in March, 1975. The next two stages "Operational Expenditures" and "Total Investment" should be completed by November, 1975.

Phase I has been funded through contributions totaling about \$15,000 from the Maine Camp Directors Association, various Maine business interests, the American Camping Association (Fund for Advancement of Camping) and individual Maine camp owners. Most of the support systems have been provided by the Center for Research and Advanced Study.

Phase II: This phase would include an inventory of all camp facilities; a survey of all camp programs and personnel; a review of research literature on camping; and an identification of Maine needs, potential programs related to camping resources, and innovative techniques for financing the expanded use of camps.

Phase III: The final phase would test the recommendations developed from the first two phases above, and begin to implement specific programs through coordination of concrete activity by Maine camp owners, University of Maine and other colleges, and various State agencies.

## B. Summary of the Study completed to date.

A questionnaire regarding tourist spending generated by camps was sent by the Center to 246 camps in Maine during the summer of 1974, (see Appendix C for the questionnaire.) Based on the responses of 126 camps on estimates of dollars spent by campers, visitors of campers, and counselors, the Center reported the following findings\*:

### Economic Impact

1. Tourist-related expenditures by visitors to Maine's organized children's camps, by camp counselors, and by campers (children) themselves are estimated to be over \$3,436,000 for the summer of 1974.
2. State Tax Revenue generated by these expenditures are estimated to be about \$398,000.
3. Because of the "multiplier effect" of tourist dollars which are respent in the State, these expenditures are estimated to have generated about \$6,076,000 in overall business activity in Maine.
4. The above figures represent very conservative estimates of the actual tourism impact of the organized children's camps because a number of significant categories of expenditures were not included in the survey, e.g., spending by seasonal home owners and by visitors on extended vacations, spending by counselors and camp employees in addition to salary advances, and spending by salesmen.

### Sources of Expenditures

5. Privately owned resident camps, which make up 50.8% of Maine's organized children's camps, are estimated to generate about \$2,769,000 in tourist related expenditures (80.6% of the total). Agency resident camps are estimated to generate \$615,000 (17.9%), and day camps \$53,000 (1.5%).
6. Overnight visitors to the resident camps (both private and agency) constitute the tourist group with the greatest economic impact, accounting for \$2,499,000 in tourist related expenditures (72.7% of the total). Expenditures by other tourist groups are estimated

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\* Organized Summer Camps/Their Value to Maine; Center for Research and Advanced Study, University at Portland-Gorham; March, 1975; pp. 5-7.



to be as follows: camp counselors - \$479,000 (13.9%); campers - \$276,000 (8.0%); day visitors to resident camps - \$129,000 (3.8%); and parent trips to day camps - \$53,000 (1.5%).

#### Visitor Patterns

7. It is estimated that each camper in the resident camps in the State receives a mean (average) of 2.439 visitors each summer if the camper remains for the full season. Campers at private resident camps average 2.334 visitors per summer, and those at agency resident camps average 2.656 visitors.
8. It is estimated that 63.3% of visitors to campers in resident camps remain overnight. 76.7% of visitors to private resident camps remain overnight, while the corresponding figure for agency resident camps is 35.5%.
9. It is estimated that overnight visitors remain a mean (average) of 2.46 nights per visit. The average length for agency resident camps is 1.72 nights.

### III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS LEGISLATION

Because of the State's current and prospective financial situation, the Committee does not feel that it can responsibly recommend a State appropriation to assist in the study of the camping industry in Maine. The Committee suggests that the Maine Camp Directors Association explore other means of financing this clearly needed study of such an important segment of the State's economy.

APPENDIX A

HP 1705

WHEREAS, Maine is fortunate to be the home of 240 Organized Children's Camps; and

WHEREAS, these camps employ over 10,000 seasonal workers and provide recreational and educational opportunities for over 25,000 young persons; and

WHEREAS, these camps pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in local real estate taxes while requiring few municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the existence of these camps protects miles of lake and ocean frontage and tens of thousands of acres of prime land from exploitation and environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, visitors to these camps number more than 50,000 each summer, bringing over 6,000,000 "Tourism" dollars to Maine's vacationland economy; and

WHEREAS, in recent years a number of camps have been forced to close due to rising property taxes, inflation and their dependence on a short season; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Maine people to determine methods to foster the conservation, growth and increased usage of these camps; now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Council be authorized, through the Joint Standing Committee on Business Legislation, to study and determine the present condition of Maine's Organized Children's Camps, including an analysis of the physical resources of the camps, the economic conditions and trends which strongly affect them, and their economic impact on the State; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Committee on Business Legislation shall give special attention to methods of increasing the attendance of Maine children at these camps; to proposals for multi-seasonal camp use, both for recreation and education; to the relationship of educational and recreational training programs of the University of Maine and other Maine colleges to the summer camp industry; to the actions State Government may initiate to increase state awareness, support and assistance in making full use of this unique Maine resource and to methods of encouraging State and Federal Agencies to make wider use of organized camping facilities, programs and personnel to meet a variety of Maine's needs; and be it further

ORDERED, that the committee coordinate with the Division of Economic Opportunity and with the Organized Camping Resources Office, Center for Research and Advanced Study, University of Maine at Portland-Gorham in carrying out this

study; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Council report the results of its findings, together with any proposed recommendations and final drafts of necessary implementing legislation to the next special or regular session of the Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, upon passage, that suitable copies of this Order be transmitted forthwith to said agencies as notice of this directive.

APPENDIX B

PERSONS MEETING WITH  
THE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS LEGISLATION

Persons Attending the Initial Meeting about H.P. 1705  
on August 12, 1975.

Frank Levine, Coordinator for Organized Camping Resources,  
Center for Research and Advanced Study, UM-PG;  
and President, New England Camping Associates  
Gene Pranger, Director of Contracts and Grants, Center for  
Research and Advanced Study, UM-PG  
James Lawrence, Camp owner and Past President, Maine Camp  
Directors Association  
Jean McMullan, Camp Owner  
Diana Scully, Committee Staff  
Bill Brown, Committee Staff

Persons Testifying before the Business Legislation Com-  
mittee on H.P. 1705 on September 19, 1975:

Halsey Smith, Director, Center for Research and Advanced  
Study, UM-PG  
Frank Levine, Coordinator for Organized Camping Resources,  
Center for Research and Advanced Study, UM-PG;  
and President, New England Camping Associates  
Gene Pranger, Director of Contracts and Grants, Center for  
Research and Advanced Study, UM-PG  
James Lawrence, Camp owner and Past President, Maine Camp  
Directors Association  
Jean McMullan, Camp Owner  
David Tilton, Teacher Education Field Services, Department  
of Educational and Cultural Services

Persons Testifying before the Business Legislation Com-  
mittee on H.P. 1705 on October 15, 1975:

Halsey Smith, Director, Center for Research and Advanced  
Study, UM-PG  
Frank Levine, Coordinator for Organized Camping Resources,  
Center for Research and Advanced Study, UM-PG;  
and President, New England Camping Associates  
Gene Pranger, Director of Contracts and Grants, Center for  
Research and Advanced Study, UM-PG  
James Lawrence, Camp owner and Past President, Maine Camp  
Directors Association  
Jean McMullan, Camp Owner  
David Tilton, Teacher Education Field Services, Department  
of Educational and Cultural Services  
Davis VanWinkle, Camp Owner and President, Maine Camp  
Directors Association

APPENDIX C

TOURIST EXPENDITURE QUESTIONNAIRE

HOW MANY PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH YOUR CAMP ARE SPENDING MONEY IN MAINE?

(Return as soon as possible in enclosed envelope)

1. Camp Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Ownership: (Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ Private \_\_\_\_\_)  
Resident \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Profit \_\_\_\_\_ Nonprofit \_\_\_\_\_

2. People visiting your camp have great economic impact on Maine.  
How often can parents visit your camp? \_\_\_\_\_  
Very Important - Complete NOW during visiting days!

A. Resident Camps:

To get an accurate tally send your camp secretary to each cabin during Rest Hour with enclosed sheet. Mail it in, and we will do the computation. In agency camps, any one regular session can be used.

B. Day Camps:

Approximately how many parents pick up and deliver children each day? \_\_\_\_\_

How many employees live at your camp? \_\_\_\_\_

3. All Camps:

A. Entire length of your camper season? \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

B. Number of Campers per: 8 wks \_\_\_\_\_ 4 wks \_\_\_\_\_ 3 wks \_\_\_\_\_ 2 wks \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of sessions \_\_\_\_\_ Other Extended Seasons \_\_\_\_\_

C. Number of paid Counselors per session? \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of all other employees? \_\_\_\_\_ No. year round in Me. \_\_\_\_\_

D. On the average, per week, how many campers \_\_\_\_\_ spend how many days \_\_\_\_\_ in town?  
How much cash is a camper given for a day "intown"? \_\_\_\_\_

E. On the average, each week, how many counselors \_\_\_\_\_, spend how many days \_\_\_\_\_ in town?  
Can you estimate how much in cash advances are given to counselors per month? \_\_\_\_\_ Use July as an example.

F. Is Bridgton the general local business center for your camp? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Any Comments on Above: \_\_\_\_\_



## VISITING TALLY

Camp Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This Group is at Camp for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.

1. Take a list of everyone now in camp, and cross out names of younger children who have brothers or sisters there.

2. Then take the list to each cabin and check off each person (counselor and camper) as you fill in their answer to these 3 questions:

In Column "A"-Count the number of people who visited you this summer?

In Column "B"-How many of them came to camp, then went back home that same day?

In Column "C"-If you had visitors who stayed overnight in Maine, how many nights did they stay?

	A	B	C		A	B	C		A	B	C		A	B	C
1				21				41				61			
2				22				42				62			
3				23				43				63			
4				24				44				64			
5				25				45				65			
6				26				46				66			
7				27				47				67			
8				28				48				68			
9				29				49				69			
10				30				50				70			
11				31				51				71			
12				32				52				72			
13				33				53				73			
14				34				54				74			
15				35				55				75			
16				36				56				76			
17				37				57				77			
18				38				58				78			
19				39				59				79			
20				40				60				80			