

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MAINE RIVERS GRANTS
PROGRAMCOLES
KANY
BLACK
JACQUES

OTP-AM

HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNEDPUBLIC
CH # 105

H-12	CA		H	S
H-26	HA	MICHAUD	H	S
S-16	SA	VIOLETTE		
S-31		BLACK		
S-37	SB	KANY	H	S

SUMMARY:

The original bill established a special fund to support various river conservation activities. The committee amended the bill (CAH-12) to specify the uses of the fund. These include assistance to local governments, river conservation groups or landowners for the acquisition, development and maintenance of river access and related facilities. Conservation easements, fisheries management, and recreation management are also authorized uses of the fund. Revenues from the fund are expected to come from donations, gifts and from the sale of promotional items (such as canoe decals).

The committee further specified that the fund would be subject to legislative allocation.

Floor amendments removed the emergency preamble (S-37) and added an allocation for FY '86 and '87 (H-26). Removal of the emergency clause became necessary when a controversy arose over the propriety of state employees soliciting donations to such a fund. Proponents of the bill argued that there are many examples of voluntary financial contributions from the private sector to support government activities ("chickadee checkoff," forestry research, port development). Opponents argued that the legislature should impose a tax to raise revenue it intended to spend and not allow state employees to solicit contributions.