

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

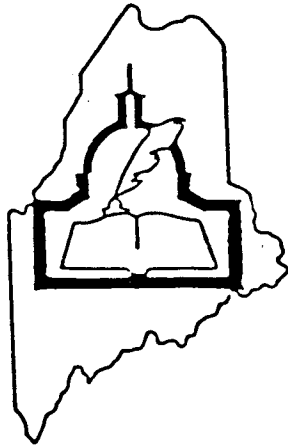
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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.

spruce and fir. In addition to tax credits, the bill called for the establishment of a new agency to be part of the Department of Conservation whose responsibilities would include research, educational and extension, planning and marketing efforts. The original bill carried a General Fund appropriation of approximately \$3 million over a two year period. Foregone tax revenue was not estimated.

The Committee received two alternative versions of the bill from the Department of Conservation and from an economic development group known as "Pro-Maine". Both carried substantially smaller direct costs while still not formally estimating lost tax revenues. The principal differences between the alternative bills has to do with the size of the landholding eligible for the tax credit. The DOC version allows all landowners to take the credit with the rationale that most of the spruce-fir forest is in large ownerships. Thus the actions of relatively few landowners can have a significant impact on the future condition and supply of the spruce-fir resource. Interestingly, large forest landowners were not enthusiastic supporters of the bill. The Pro-Maine version limited the tax credit to relatively small landowners reasoning that these landowners need special attention and incentives in order to manage their holdings properly.

The Committee decided to hold and study the bill due to the late referral of the bill and the complexity of the proposals involved.

LD:

316

AN ACT TO PRESERVE MAINE'S FRESHWATER
WETLANDS

WEBSTER M

LU-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

This bill would have changed the definitional size of freshwater wetland from 10 or more contiguous acres to 1 or more contiguous acres.