

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
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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.

The Commissioner of Personnel will report his findings and recommendations for improvements to the Joint Standing Committee on State Government. The committee is authorized to evaluate the report and its findings and submit any necessary implementing legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature.

The Committee amended the bill (S-35) by adding an emergency preamble in order to enable the Department of Personnel to commence the study immediately.

LD:

441

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

LORD  
MCBREAIRTY  
DEXTER

ONTP                   HOUSE Indef. PP  
                          SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
                          GOV  
H-106   CA   MIN REP                   H

SUMMARY:

LD 441 proposed to establish a Department of Forestry to replace the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation. The Department of Forestry would attain cabinet level status.

The purpose for the bill may be described as follows: the significance of forestry in the State of Maine warrants department status for this sector of the economy and a position which is at least equal with Marine Resources, Agriculture, and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Proponents argued that forestry and the forest industry need much more attention than they currently receive. In addition, some persons pointed out that valuable wood is being sold for firewood. Others pointed out that the small and medium sized private, non-corporation owned forest land needs better management. The Service Forestry program which provided advice and management plans for small woodlot owners was discontinued in the late 1970's.

Opponents to the bill argued that the bill did not give the new department comprehensive authority to undertake the tasks required of a forestry department. Opponents also argued that:

- 1) the former service forestry program was very costly and could only assist 1/2 of 1% of Maine's small forestland owners in any one year;
- 2) the reorganization of State Government sought to consolidate state government in structure rather than diffuse it to make State Government more

efficient, responsible, and accountable; and

3) the forestry agency in most other state governments is part of a larger natural resource department.

Committee Amendment "A" provided a more complete transition clause and an appropriation of roughly \$450,000 for the biennium to cover the cost of establishing the new department.

LD: 448 AN ACT RELATING TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF AND THE PAYMENT OF PER DIEM TO BOARDS GWADOSKY ERWIN P

OTP-AM HOUSE Enacted SENATE Enacted GOV SIGNED PUBLIC CH # 106

H-48 CA H S

SUMMARY:

LD 448, as originally proposed, changed the composition of the Board of Accountancy and the per diem rate paid to board members. Currently, the 7-member board is composed of 3 certified public accountants, 3 noncertified public accountants and one public member. The bill reduces the board of 5 members, 3 of whom are certified public accountants, one of whom is a noncertified public member and one of whom represents the public.

The number of noncertified public accountants is rapidly diminishing as more and more accountants seek certification in order to obtain the better accounting positions that are available.

The bill also increases the rate of per diem from \$35 a day to \$50 a day, which is paid from certification fee revenues.

The Committee amended the bill to change the quorum requirement from 4 members to 3 members.