

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 1 to 8.

Further amend the resolve in section 9 in subsection 4 in the last line (page 5, line 36 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Conservation." the following: 'Authorization for transfer does not include a parcel of land of approximately 143 acres located on the eastern part of the Wyman Lot, on the southerly side of and adjacent to Route 27 and in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail Corridor. This parcel is to be retained by the Bureau of Parks and Lands; and be it further'

Further amend the resolve by inserting after section 9 the following:

Sec. 10 Conditions for transfer of public lots. Resolved: That the conveyance of the public lots authorized in section 1 is contingent upon:

1. The transfer of approximately 4,040 acres in the northwestern quadrant of Township 3, Range 8 to the Baxter State Park Authority for inclusion in Baxter State Park;

2. The transfer of approximately 1,975 acres in the southwestern quadrant of Township 4, Range 8 to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands;

3. The Bureau of Parks and Lands' securing an option to purchase approximately 8,000 acres in Township 3, Range 8 and Township 4, Range 8 owned by the Gardner family and east of the acreage proposed for transfer under subsections 1 and 2;

4. The Bureau of Parks and Lands' obtaining a temporary easement allowing public access and recreational use over the approximately 8,000 acres in Township 3, Range 8 and Township 4, Range 8 described in subsection 3. This easement must be in effect for the duration of the option to purchase. If the option to purchase is not exercised, the Bureau of Parks and Lands shall seek to acquire a permanent easement allowing public access and recreational use over the approximately 8,000 acres. A 3rd-party appraisal must be used to determine the value of a permanent easement;

5. Bureau of Parks and Lands' procuring a signed statement from a grantee receiving the lots authorized for transfer in section 1 stating that the grantee is willing to continue existing independent 3rd-party certification of those lands under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative or Forest Stewardship Council certification programs; and

6. Notification to the Bureau of Parks and Lands that the grantee receiving the lots authorized for transfer in section 1 has entered into an agreement with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to continue management of winter habitat for white-tailed deer on those lots that is consistent with the management agreement between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Parks and Lands in effect on March 30, 2006 and that the agreement between the grantee and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will remain in effect as long as the grantee owns the lots; and be it further

Sec. 11 Strategies to increase snowmobiling opportunities. Resolved: That the Department of Conservation shall develop a comprehensive plan to increase snowmobiling opportunities in the Katahdin Region. The department shall explore strategies to secure continuing use of existing snowmobile trails through easements or other means and also explore ways to improve existing trails or develop new ones where necessary or preferable. In developing the plan, the department shall work with public and private landowners to explore strategies for improving and expanding snowmobiling in the

region. The department shall consider a comprehensive set of strategies and engage local officials and citizens in the development of the plan. The department shall provide a copy of its plan and recommended strategies to all stakeholders, including the Baxter State Park Authority, for their information and consideration. For purposes of this section and section 5, "the Katahdin Region," means the area from Millinocket, East Millinocket and Medway to the south and extending north to Shin Pond and west into Piscataquis County. No later than March 15, 2007, the Commissioner of Conservation shall provide the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public lands matters with a progress report on actions taken to meet these objectives and a list of officials, landowners and citizens participating in this process; and be it further

Sec. 12 Management of Wyman Lot. Resolved: That the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation shall manage the eastern 143 acres of the Wyman Lot described in section 1 and retained by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. The director shall consult with the Flagstaff Regional Advisory Council in developing a management plan for this acreage; and be it further

Sec. 13 Commissioner of Conservation to convene a working group. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Conservation shall convene a working group on the acquisition of land for multiple uses. The group must include, but is not limited to, representatives of the Katahdin Region. The group shall review possible options for the public acquisition of land or interest in land that is crucial for hunting, snowmobiling and other types of recreation that have a significant impact on the economy of the region; and be it further

Sec. 14 Proceeds from sale of certain public lots. Resolved: That the proceeds from the sale of the public lots in Penobscot County authorized for transfer in section 1 be applied towards the purchase of the approximately 1,975 acres in the southwest quadrant of Township 4, Range 8 to be transferred to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands pursuant to section 2, subsection 2; and be it further

Sec. 15 Maintenance of hiking trail. Resolved: That the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation shall construct and maintain a hiking trail through the 8,000 acres described in section 2, subsection 4. The director shall consult with the Baxter State Park Authority on connecting this trail to trails within Baxter State Park leading to the shore of Katahdin Lake; and be it further

Sec. 16 Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Land Management and Planning 0239

Initiative: Allocates funds necessary to cover administrative costs associated with the acquisition of certain new properties.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2005-06	2006-07
All Other	\$0	\$100,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$100,000

Further amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It removes sections 1 to 8 from the resolve. It excludes the eastern 143 acres in the Wyman Lot from the parcel authorized for transfer. It makes transfer of the public lots contingent on certain other transactions and assurances. It requires the Department of Conservation to develop a comprehensive plan for increasing opportunities for snowmobiling in the Katahdin Region. It also requires the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation to convene a working group on acquisition of land for multiple uses. It specifies that the proceeds from the authorized sale of public lots in Penobscot County go towards purchasing the 1,975 acres in Township 4, Range 8 that will be transferred to the Bureau of Parks and Lands. It requires the Bureau of Parks and Lands to construct and maintain a trail from the east to connect with trails within Baxter State Park to Katahdin Lake. It also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)