



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1397

H.P. 949

House of Representatives, May 12, 2015

**An Act To Establish the Affordable Heating from Maine's Forests
Fund**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Senator EDGECOMB of Aroostook and
Representative: KINNEY of Knox.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation establishes the Affordable Heating from Maine's Forests
4 Fund, which receives scheduled transfers from the Public Reserved Lands Management
5 Fund; and

6 **Whereas,** the first of these transfers must occur before the expiration of the 90-day
7 period in order to allow the fund to support measures to reduce rural residential heating
8 costs before the next winter season; and

9 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
12 therefore,

13 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

14 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1849, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24 and
15 Pt. C, §10, is further amended to read:

16 **1. Revenue sources.** Except as provided in paragraph A and Title 35-A, section
17 10124, the bureau must receive all money, securities and other things of value accruing to
18 the State: from the sale of timber and grass and other rights and things of value from the
19 public reserved lands under the care, custody, control or management of the bureau; in
20 payment for timber, grass and other things of value cut or taken by trespassers; from
21 forfeiture of a bond or a deposit when a contractor does not fulfill the terms of the
22 contract or comply with state regulations; or as a result of a compromise or settlement of
23 any claim.

24 A. The first \$20,000 in the aggregate of any money accruing from the alienation of
25 rights to mine upon public reserved land, or other income arising out of mining
26 operations, that is actually received during any fiscal year, and every portion thereof
27 accruing from these mining operations, must be paid to the Division of Geology,
28 Natural Areas and Coastal Resources.

29 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10124** is enacted to read:

30 **§10124. Affordable Heating from Maine's Forests Fund**

31 **1. Fund established.** The Affordable Heating from Maine's Forests Fund, referred
32 to in this section as "the fund," is established. The fund is a nonlapsing fund administered
33 by the trust in accordance with this section. Any interest earned on funds in the fund
34 must be credited to the fund, and funds not spent in any fiscal year remain in the fund to
35 be used in accordance with this section. The trust receives and deposits in the fund funds
36 from the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund, established in Title 12, section 1849,
37 subsection 2.

