



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

---

Legislative Document

No. 1151

---

H.P. 789

House of Representatives, March 31, 2015

### **An Act To Prevent the Infestation of Firewood by Invasive Species**

---

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.  
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and  
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, HICKMAN of Winthrop, MAREAN of Hollis, MARTIN  
of Eagle Lake, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SHORT of Pittsfield, STANLEY of Medway,  
Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 417** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 417**

4 **FIREWOOD**

5 **§2441. Firewood emergency response group**

6 The commissioner shall establish a firewood emergency response group to respond to  
7 reports of infestation of firewood by invasive species. Membership in the firewood  
8 emergency response group may include forest rangers, public and private foresters,  
9 entomologists, landowners, municipal officials and law enforcement officials as the  
10 commissioner determines appropriate. At least once a year the firewood emergency  
11 response group shall conduct a training exercise to prepare for an infestation incident  
12 involving firewood.

13 **§2442. Firewood Infestation Education Fund**

14 The Firewood Infestation Education Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is  
15 established. The fund is a nonlapsing fund administered by the department for the  
16 purposes of educating the public and promoting public awareness of the dangers of  
17 infestation of invasive species through the importation of firewood into the State, which  
18 may include Internet marketing, mapping resources and tools for landowners. Money in  
19 the fund consists of appropriations or allocations for the purpose of the fund and any  
20 other money, including federal money and other public and private contributions,  
21 deposited into the fund. Income from investment of the fund must be deposited to the  
22 credit of the fund.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to  
25 create a firewood emergency response group to respond to reports of infestation of  
26 firewood by invasive species and creates the Firewood Infestation Education Fund to  
27 educate the public regarding and promote public awareness of the dangers of infestation  
28 through the importation of firewood into the State.