

127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 670

H.P. 451

House of Representatives, March 3, 2015

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Unlawful Cutting of Trees

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative WELSH of Rockport. Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, GRANT of Gardiner, HOBBINS of Saco, Senator: MIRAMANT of Knox.

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §7552, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 1999, c. 339, §1, is
further amended to read:

B. For Except within areas that have been zoned for residential use, for lost trees, the owner may claim in lieu of market value the forfeiture amounts determined in Title 17, section 2510, subsections 2 and 3. In addition, the owner's damages may include the costs for regeneration of the stand in accordance with Title 12, section 8869. The court may reduce the damages awarded for good cause shown when the cutting of trees was done negligently or without fault.

10 Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §7552, sub-§3, ¶B-1 is enacted to read:

11 <u>B-1. Within areas that have been zoned for residential use, for lost trees, the owner</u> 12 may claim in lieu of market value the forfeiture amounts determined in Title 17,

13 section 2510, subsections 2 and 3. In addition, the owner's damages may include the costs for replanting and restoring the trees.

- <u>costs for replanting and restoring the trees.</u>
- 15 SUMMARY

16 This bill allows a landowner within an area zoned for residential use to recover the 17 costs of replanting and restoring trees that have been cut down without permission of the 18 landowner.