

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—  
H.P. 29 - L.D. 63

**An Act Regarding the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact**

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

**Whereas,** this legislation extends liability protection for the State and firefighters who travel to fight wildfires or other emergencies outside of the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact area; and

**Whereas,** it is important that this legislation take effect immediately in order that the liability protection be extended as soon as possible; and

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

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

**Sec. 1. P&SL 1949, c. 75, §1** is amended by adding at the end a new Article to read:

**ARTICLE XV**

The provisions of Article IX that relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or preventing forest fires are operative as between any member state and any other state that is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region, as long as the legislature of that other state has given its consent to those mutual aid provisions of this compact.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.