

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 168

S. P. 79

In Senate, January 24, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent down for concurrence and 2,500 ordered printed.

Presented by Senator O'Leary of Oxford.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Ensure the Safety of Minors Participating in Trip Camping.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 2052, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 503, § 8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 2052. Junior Maine guides and trip leaders; curriculum board

The commissioner shall appoint a board of 4 members, to be known as the "Junior Maine Guides and Trip Leaders' Curriculum Board." The board shall consist of one member from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, one member from the Department of Human Services and 2 public members, one of whom may be a Maine camp director. All members shall serve without compensation, except that public members shall be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Appointments to the board shall be for 3 years or until successors are appointed.

The board shall hold such meetings as may be necessary and shall adopt rules and regulations for the administration of this section and section 2054. The board shall establish standards of requirements and methods of ascertaining fitness of candidates for a junior Maine guide certificate. The board shall also adopt, approve and review camp trip leaders safety course curriculum which shall include, but not be limited to, training in first aid and water safety, including

lifesaving techniques, as appropriate, and camp trip leaders qualifications under the special application procedure as stated in section 2054.

All candidates for junior Maine guide certificates shall be at least 14 years of age. Those who pass the required examination shall be presented with junior Maine guide certificates signed by the commissioner. No junior Maine guide may receive remuneration for services or compete in any way with regular Maine guides.

All applicants for trip leaders' permits shall be at least 18 years of age.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 2054, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 2054. Trip leaders' permits

Boys' and girls' summer camps located in Maine and duly licensed by the Department of Human Services, or located in another state and duly licensed in a similar manner if the laws of the other state so require, conducting trip camping shall provide a minimum ratio of one staff member, at least 18 years of age, for each 6 campers who are minors. The staff member in charge of the trip shall be a holder of a trip leader's permit.

Any person wishing such a permit shall submit an application on such form as the commissioner shall provide and pay the fee as provided. After June 1, 1980, in order to qualify initially for such a permit, an applicant shall either show successful completion of a camp trip leader's safety course, the curriculum of which shall be approved by the Junior Maine Guides and Trip Leaders' Curriculum Board, or be approved by the special application procedure stated in this section.

A camp trip leader's safety course curriculum may be submitted to the board for approval and, in addition thereto, the commissioner shall publish curriculum adopted or approved by the board and a current list of courses with the approved curriculum by name and address.

In lieu of a showing of successful completion of a camp trip leader's safety course, an applicant may complete a special application outlining in detail his experience and training as a trip leader. Approval by the commissioner of this application and payment of the qualifying fee shall qualify the applicant thereafter for a trip leader's permit.

Wardens of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the rangers of the Bureau of Forestry are authorized to enforce the provisions of this section. They may terminate any trip in violation of this section or considered unsafe. The commissioner shall consider previous violations of this section when issuing or reissuing trip leaders' permits.

The qualifying fee for a trip leader's permit shall be \$10. This permit shall be renewable annually upon the payment of a fee of \$5.

In order to permit time for the implementation of this section, prior to June 1, 1980, trip leaders' permits shall be granted without qualifying requirements upon payment of a fee of \$5.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes standards and curriculum which shall be satisfied before a person can obtain a trip leader's permit and conforms statutory requirements to the existing regulations of the Department of Human Services.