

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 695

S.P. 208

In Senate, February 7, 2019

### **An Act To Require Biodegradable Hooks and Lures for Freshwater Fishing**

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Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.  
Cosponsored by Representative MASON of Lisbon and  
Senators: BLACK of Franklin, DILL of Penobscot, Representatives: MARTIN of Sinclair,  
STEARNS of Guilford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10001, sub-§8-A** is enacted to read:

3 **8-A. Biodegradable.** "Biodegradable," with regard to a material, means that the  
4 material will undergo degradation by biological processes when exposed to ordinary  
5 environmental conditions to yield carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds and  
6 biomass at a rate consistent with other materials that undergo degradation by biological  
7 processes and will leave no visible, distinguishable or toxic residue.

8 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12665** is enacted to read:

9 **§12665. Unlawful use of nonbiodegradable hooks or artificial lures**

10 Beginning January 1, 2024, a person may not fish in inland waters using a hook or an  
11 artificial lure unless the hook is composed wholly of biodegradable materials and those  
12 rubber or plastic portions of the artificial lure are composed wholly of biodegradable  
13 materials. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 Beginning January 1, 2024, this bill prohibits fishing in inland waters using  
16 nonbiodegradable hooks or certain nonbiodegradable artificial lures. A person who  
17 violates this prohibition commits a Class E crime.