

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1551

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H.P. 1126

House of Representatives, April 11, 2019

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**An Act To Clarify Fishing Laws between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources as They Relate to Striped Bass in Inland Waters**

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Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 204. Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative NADEAU of Winslow.  
Cosponsored by Senator DILL of Penobscot and  
Representatives: FAY of Raymond, MARTIN of Sinclair, MASON of Lisbon, ORDWAY of Standish, PAULHUS of Bath, STEARNS of Guilford, THERIAULT of China, Senator: DAVIS of Piscataquis.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12602, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 150, §5, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Possess fish in violation of certain rules.** Possess fish in violation of the number,  
5 amount, weight or size limits established by rules adopted by the commissioner; ~~or~~

6 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12602, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 150, §5, is amended  
7 to read:

8 **3. Alter fish from their natural state prior to measuring for bag limit.** When  
9 rules adopted by the commissioner limit the volume of fish that may be taken, alter those  
10 fish from or possess fish altered from their natural state prior to their being measured for  
11 compliance with the volume limit; or

12 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12602, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

13 **4. Fish striped bass in violation or possess striped bass in violation of certain**  
14 **Department of Marine Resources rules.** Fish striped bass in violation or possess  
15 striped bass in violation of the number, amount or size limits established by rule adopted  
16 by the Commissioner of Marine Resources under section 6171.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill eliminates duplicative rulemaking by prohibiting the fishing or possession of  
19 striped bass taken from the inland waters of the State in violation of rules adopted by the  
20 Commissioner of Marine Resources.