

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date:

5/2/25 Majority

(Filing No. H-402)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 106, L.D. 173, "An Act to Exempt
Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Fees for Operating Watercraft'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the
following:'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§3, ¶C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 612, §1, is
further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

Prior to January 1, 2020, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$10 fee for invasive species prevention and control. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$15 fee for invasive species prevention and control. Beginning January 1, 2025, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$25 fee for invasive species prevention and control. Beginning January 1, 2026, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraph A, subparagraph (1-A) for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$10 fee for invasive species prevention and control. Beginning January 1, 2028, except as provided in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraph A, subparagraph (1-A), the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$35 fee for invasive species prevention and control. This fee is disposed of as follows:

(1) Prior to January 1, 2025, 80% must be credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund. Beginning January 1, 2025, 70% must be credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund; and

(2) Prior to January 1, 2025, 20% must be credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund established within the department under section 10257. Beginning January 1, 2025, 30% must be credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§8, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 612, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Ten horsepower or less, prior to January 1, 2020 the fee is \$25 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee under this subparagraph is \$30 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2025 and until December 31, 2025, the fee under this subparagraph is \$40 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2028, the fee under this subparagraph is \$50 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State;

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§8, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 612, §2, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (1-A) to read:

(1-A) Five horsepower or less, beginning January 1, 2026, the fee is \$20 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$10 for operating only on tidal waters of the State;

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§8, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 612, §2, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (1-B) to read:

(1-B) Greater than 5 horsepower but not more than 10 horsepower, beginning January 1, 2026, the fee is \$40 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2028, the fee under this subparagraph is \$50 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State;

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF

Water Quality 0248

Initiative: Reduces allocation due to revenue reduction.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$166,780)	(\$166,780)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$166,780)	(\$166,780)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	(\$166,780)	(\$166,780)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 106, L.D. 173

1	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	(\$166,780)	(\$166,780)
2	INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF		
3	Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537		
4	Initiative: Reduces allocations as a result of revenue reduction.		
5	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
6	All Other	(\$71,477)	(\$71,477)
7			
8	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$71,477)	(\$71,477)
9			
10	INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,		
11	DEPARTMENT OF		
12	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
13			
14	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	(\$71,477)	(\$71,477)
15			
16	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	(\$71,477)	(\$71,477)
17			
18	SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
19			
20	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	(\$238,257)	(\$238,257)
21			
22	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	(\$238,257)	(\$238,257)
23			

24 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
25 number to read consecutively.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. The amendment provides that,
28 beginning January 1, 2026, the fee for boats operating on inland waters of the State with a
29 motor that is 5 horsepower or less is \$20, \$10 of which must be used for invasive species
30 prevention and control. The amendment provides that the fee for boats operating only on
31 tidal waters with a motor that is 5 horsepower or less is \$10. The amendment also provides
32 that the fee for operating a watercraft with a motor that has a horsepower rating over 5
33 horsepower but no more than 10 horsepower is the same as the fee currently established
34 for watercraft with a motor that is 10 horsepower or less.

35 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

36 (See attached)

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 173****LR 502(02)****An Act to Exempt Certain Watercraft from Registration Requirements****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment****Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife****Fiscal Note Required: Yes****A (H-402)****Fiscal Note**

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$82,822	\$82,822	\$91,104	\$99,386
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	(\$238,257)	(\$238,257)	(\$262,083)	(\$285,908)
Revenue				
General Fund	(\$82,822)	(\$82,822)	(\$91,104)	(\$99,386)
Other Special Revenue Funds	(\$238,257)	(\$238,257)	(\$262,083)	(\$285,908)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The fee changes proposed in this bill are expected to reduce General Fund revenue to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) and the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), as well as reduce Other Special Revenue Funds (OSR) revenue to both IFW and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Detailed impacts are outlined below:

Registration Revenue				Lake and River Sticker Revenue			
IFW	General Fund	\$	(62,117)	IFW	OSR	\$	(71,477)
DMR	General Fund	\$	(20,705)	DEP	OSR	\$	(166,780)
		\$	(82,822)			\$	(238,257)

The estimated revenue reductions are based on current registration data and assume that approximately 11,913 inland and 2,269 tidal registrations that are currently registered as 10 hp or below would qualify under the 5 hp or below category created in the bill. Statutorily required fee increases in fiscal year 2028-29 and distribution formulas for the Lake and River Protection Sticker program remain unchanged. The bill includes accompanying Other Special Revenue Fund deallocations to reflect the reduction in anticipated revenues.