

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
JUNE 1987

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Sponsor: DUFFY, Ruhlin, Jacques, Baldacci  
Committee Report: OTP-AM  
Amendments Adopted:  
H-124 COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: For the past few years, a tour boat operator in the Mt. Desert area has been feeding bald eagles as a means of attracting them to his boat and enhancing his tour. This bill makes that practice illegal by prohibiting the feeding, baiting or harassing of endangered species. Concerns voiced about the feeding included that these species would become acclimated to humans and therefore vulnerable to harm, they would become dependent on the food supply, the immature eagles would delay learning hunting skills and that the eagles would be the objects of commercial exploitation.

By allowing some of these activities to continue by permission of the Commissioner, the burden of proof is shifted from the Department having to prove that the activity is harming the animal to the applicant having to justify how this activity is benefitting either the animal or the species.

The Committee amended the bill to include a provision for a warning for the first violation so that inadvertent violations would not be harshly punished.

Sponsor: TARDY, Rotondi  
Committee Report: MAJ-ONTP

SUMMARY: This bill proposed to allow hunting of any sex deer during the special muzzle-loading season. Only 27 deer were killed in the 1986 season and it was argued that allowing the hunting of does would not put undue pressure on the herd.

To effectively manage the herd, the Department noted they would have to revise downward their permits for the regular season. The Committee felt that eliminating these restrictions would substantially increase the number of muzzle-loading licenses and in turn the hunting pressure. Also, the probability of snow during the special muzzle-loading season would give an unfair advantage to the muzzle-loaders.