

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

MAY 1998

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*Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin*  
*Sen. Stephen E. Hall*

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- INDEF PP*.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
- ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

**Enacted law summary**

Public Law 1997, chapter 679 authorizes the issuance of lifetime fishing and hunting licenses beginning in the year 2000 to residents from zero to 5 years of age and to residents 65 years of age or older.

Money from the sale of these licenses is dedicated to the Lifetime License Fund, created in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, except that the commissioner may withhold funds from deposit in the account as needed to avoid a loss in license revenue. The fund is administered by the Treasurer of State, who is directed to contract with investment firms as necessary to manage the fund for growth and income over the long term. The department will receive no revenue from the fund until the year 2010, at which time the department will begin receiving annual payments from the fund in an amount equal to 5 percent of the fund principal. All funds received by the department from the fund are subject to allocation by the Legislature.

**LD 751**

**An Act to Outlaw the Use of Eel Pots in Inland Waters**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STEDMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 751 proposed to prohibit the use of eel pots in inland waters. The effective date of this bill was proposed to be January 1, 1998 so that persons possessing eel pot permits issued for calendar year 1997 may have lawfully fished for eels on inland waters using an eel pot until the expiration of that permit.

**LD 1159**

**An Act to Open Trapping Season on Saturday**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1159 proposed that the open season on trapping begin on a Saturday.

**LD 1162**

**An Act to Clarify the Duties of the Maine Atlantic Salmon Authority**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'NEIL KIEFFER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1162 proposed to clarify that the Atlantic Salmon Authority has the sole authority to introduce, import, stock and rear or to permit the introduction, importation, stocking and rearing of Atlantic salmon, live or as eggs, into the State or into the inland or coastal waters of the State.