

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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**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).

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.

LD 1479**An Act to Decriminalize Various Fish and Game Violations and Enhance Collectibility of Associated Penalties**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS	ONTP	

LD 1479 proposed to decriminalize a number of fish and wildlife violations.

LD 1730**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Great Pond Task Force****PUBLIC 739**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT	OTP-AM A	S-600
COWGER	OTP-AM B	S-686 KILKELLY
	OTP-AM C	S-691 KILKELLY
	ONTP D	

LD 1730 was carried over by the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources and was re-referred during the Second Regular Session as a joint referral to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resource.

LD 1730 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Great Ponds Task Force by:

1. Establishing the Lakes Heritage Trust Fund in the Executive Department to protect, preserve and enhance the quality and value of the State's great ponds. The fund was to be administered by the Land and Water Resources Council and the council authorized to accept monetary contributions into the fund. The fund was be capitalized in part from 2 revenue sources proposed in the bill: a one-time registration fee for motorless watercraft and an annual \$10 water quality impact fee assessed on residential dwellings on lots within the watershed of a great pond.
2. Redefining the term "personal watercraft" to include jet propelled watercraft 14 feet or less in length.
3. Directing the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules governing the use, operation and type of watercraft that may be used on great ponds less than 200 acres in surface area and requires the commissioner to consider potential wildlife impacts, environmental values, including noise, and the traditional uses of a water body when adopting rules governing the horsepower, use, operation or type of watercraft allowed on a water body.
4. Increasing the registration fee for motorboats. The fee for the first motorboat registered by a person in a year was proposed to be increased from \$4 to \$15, with the fee for all subsequent registrations remaining at \$4.
5. Creating a new one-time registration fee for motorless watercraft by requiring a person to pay \$10 for each motorless canoe, kayak, sailboard, sailboat or rowboat.
6. Creating a new recreational motorboat rental and leasing license with an annual fee of \$50.