

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

July 2006

Members:

*Sen. Bruce S. Bryant, Chair
Sen. Joseph C. Perry
Sen. Chandler E. Woodcock*

*Rep. Thomas R. Watson, Chair
Rep. Stanley A. Moody
Rep. Jacqueline A. Lundeen
Rep. Troy D. Jackson
Rep. A. David Trahan
Rep. Earl E. Richardson
Rep. Richard M. Cebra
Rep. David E. Richardson
Rep. Richard M. Sykes
Rep. Thomas B. Saviello*

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Maine State Legislature



Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Office of Fiscal and Program Review

122nd Maine Legislature Second Regular Session

Summary of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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/billsumm.htm).

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
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP.....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP-ND.....	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED (Pocket Veto).....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

LD 307

An Act To Improve Recreational Watercraft Safety

PUBLIC 536

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN OTP-AM MIN	H-850

LD 307 proposed to establish a recreational watercraft training and certificate program to promote the safe operation of watercraft in the waters of the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-850) proposed to prohibit a person 16 years of age or older and under 18 years of age from operating a personal watercraft unless that person has a person 18 years of age or older physically on the watercraft during operation or that person possesses proof of age and proof of having completed a boater safety course. This requirement would take effect January 1, 2007.

The amendment also proposed to direct the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources to work together and with interested parties to study the feasibility of developing a statewide boater safety education program. The commissioners would be required to report their findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Joint Standing Committee of Marine Resources by February 1, 2007.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-851) proposed to allow a person who is 15 years of age to operate a personal watercraft if that person had successfully completed a boater safety education course provided by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or an organization approved by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Committee Amendment "C" (H-852) proposed to prohibit a person 16 years of age or older and under 18 years of age from operating a personal watercraft unless that person possessed on that person proof of age and proof of having completed a boater safety education course. It proposed to have this requirement take effect January 1, 2007.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 536, beginning January 1, 2007, prohibits a person 16 or 17 years of age from operating a personal watercraft unless:

1. That person is accompanied on the personal watercraft by someone at least 18 years of age; or
2. That person while operating the personal watercraft possesses identification showing proof of age and proof of successful completion of an approved boater safety education course.

Public Law 2005, chapter 536 also directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources to work together and with other interested parties to study the feasibility of developing a statewide boater safety education program and to report back their findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by February 1, 2007.