

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES
AND WILDLIFE**

July 2007

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STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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 (or Accepted ONTP report).....	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.....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

LD 654 An Act To Make License Requirements and Rules Consistent for Young Anglers CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT M		

LD 654 makes age requirements for nonresident youth anglers consistent with resident anglers. Under current law a resident anglers is not required to have a fishing license until reaching 16 years of age.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

LD 655 An Act To Change the Firearms Season on Deer ONTP

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

LD 655 sets the regular firearms season for deer in Wildlife Management Districts 1 to 11 one week prior to the first Saturday in November and continues for the following 5 weeks. It also provides that in the other wildlife management districts, the regular firearms season for deer begins on the first Saturday in November and continues for the following 4 weeks.

LD 698 An Act To Increase the Seal Fee for Registration of a Harvested Animal ONTP
BY REQUEST

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

LD 698 increases the seal fee for registration of a harvested animal from \$1 to \$5.

LD 728 An Act To Enhance the Wise Use and Sound Management of Maine's Wildlife Resources PUBLIC 168

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FLOOD TURNER	OTP-AM	H-158

LD 728 prohibits a hunter or trapper from wasting a harvested or wounded game animal and removes the law that allows the holder of a big game license to take a bear during the regular open firearm season on deer without a bear hunting permit. It also provides that the revenue generated from the issuance of bear hunting permits in excess of the number issued in 2006 must be used to fund studies relating to the harvesting of black bears.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-158)

This committee amendment replaces the bill and does the following:

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

1. It establishes the Black Bear Research Fund to fund research regarding the management of black bear;
2. It requires nonresident hunters to obtain a nonresident late season bear hunting permit to hunt bear during the regular firearm season on deer if that person does not possess a regular season bear hunting permit. The fee for the permit is \$40;
3. It creates a new bear trapping permit. The fee for the permit is \$27 for residents and \$67 for nonresidents;
4. It prohibits the intentional waste of wounded or killed game animals;
5. It authorizes a guide to dispatch a client's wounded or killed bear, deer or moose after legal hunting hours; and
6. It provides an effective date of January 1, 2008 for those provisions regarding the Black Bear Research Fund and bear hunting and trapping.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 168 does the following:

1. It establishes the Black Bear Research Fund to fund research regarding the management of black bear;
2. It requires nonresident hunters to obtain a nonresident late season bear hunting permit to hunt bear during the regular firearm season on deer if that person does not possess a regular season bear hunting permit;
3. It creates a new bear trapping permit. The fee for the permit is \$27 for residents and \$67 for nonresidents;
4. It prohibits the intentional waste of wounded or killed game animals; and
5. It authorizes a guide to dispatch a client's wounded or killed bear, deer or moose after legal hunting hours.

LD 771 An Act To Allow a Hunter To Retrieve a Dog from Posted Property

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIEH NUTTING J	ONTP	

LD 771 amends the trespass laws to allow an exemption for a hunter to go on posted land to retrieve the hunter's dog if the dog has crossed onto property that is posted.

LD 772 An Act To Track and Record All Fishing-related Rules Changes

**ACCEPTED ONTP
REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON PERRY J	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 772 requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a database that tracks and records changes to the department's fishing rules.