

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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

August 2025

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Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife rule. Public Law 2025, chapter 333 also reorganizes certain laws regarding rulemaking related to open and closed seasons for deer hunting, clarifies the distinctions between the expanded archery season and a special hunting season and corrects cross-references. Finally, Public Law 2025, chapter 333 designates location data regarding species of special concern confidential in statute in the same manner as location data regarding threatened and endangered species and removes outdated language in current law regarding public records exceptions.

LD 101 Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Examine the Classification of and Access to Public Records Maintained by Certain State Agencies

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 37 directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a working group, composed of representatives from specified state agencies and the Right to Know Advisory Committee, to examine the classification of and access to public records maintained by certain state agencies. Resolve 2025, chapter 37 also directs the working group to, no later than January 14, 2026, submit a report that includes the working group's findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and authorizes each committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature based on the report.

LD 139 Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Study Establishing a Program for the Electronic Tagging of Deer

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 32 directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to study and establish a plan for a program for the electronic tagging of deer and report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than January 14, 2026. The law also gives the committee the authority to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

LD 157 An Act to Amend Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 132 makes the following changes to the laws governing inland fisheries and wildlife.

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1. It moves the laws governing the Fish and Wildlife Management Education Fund into a subchapter dealing with specific dedicated funds.
2. It provides a mandatory hunting license suspension for a person convicted of discharging archery equipment within 100 yards of a residential dwelling without owner permission.
3. It removes the word “written” from the laws governing the moose permit lottery application.
4. It provides that if a person submits satisfactory evidence of having previously held an adult license to trap in any other state, province or country, the person must also submit proof of having successfully completed a trapper education course comparable to the type described in law.
5. It amends a provision by adding and removing definitions related to the sale and use of fishing equipment and provides that the laws governing the use of lead sinkers, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs apply within inland waters.
6. It adds four new wildlife management areas to the list of wildlife management areas and removes one from the list.
7. It provides that, beginning on January 1, 2026, a taxidermist license entitles a person to practice the art of taxidermy through the remainder of the calendar year in which the license was issued plus two calendar years unless revoked sooner.
8. It changes “motorboat” to “watercraft” and “bathing area” to “swim area” in the laws governing motorboat operation.

LD 171 An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant and Animal Infestations in Inland Waters of the State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 116 requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to jointly review and recommend more stringent watercraft inspection protocols on inland waters of the State known to be infested with invasive aquatic plants and to review surface use restrictions and notification of those restrictions to members of the public. The law requires the departments to annually submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters and authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the commissioners’ annual report to any regular or special session of the Legislature.