

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

LD 1042 An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Children Under 13 Years of Age Wear United States Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 148 modifies the provision of law governing operation of a watercraft to prohibit a person from operating a watercraft unless all passenger children who are under 13 years of age and the boat operator, if also under 13 years of age, are wearing an appropriate United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while the watercraft is underway and being used for recreational purposes unless they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin.

LD 1241 An Act to Establish the Make Change for Wildlife Program to Support the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 283 repeals the Wildlife Enthusiast's Conservation Appreciation, Recreation and Enjoyment support program and establishes the Make Change for Wildlife Program as a way to generate voluntary contributions to benefit the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund. Public Law 2025, chapter 283 also directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, no later than January 1, 2026, regarding the Make Change for Wildlife program, including suggested legislation. The law authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

LD 1308 Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Examine Issues Related to Public Access to Privately Owned Lands

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 82 directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to establish a working group that is broadly representative of landowner and land user interests to explore ways to maintain and expand public access to privately owned lands in the State. The departments are directed to report any findings and recommendations of the working group to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by February 15, 2026. Each committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Resolve 2025, chapter 82 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 17, 2025.