

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2106

H. P. 1918

House of Representatives, January 27, 1976

Referred to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Spencer of Standish.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT Concerning Ice Fishing on Sebago Lake.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the citizens of Standish and surrounding communities have traditionally fished during the winter in the lower bay of Sebago Lake, but have this winter been prevented from doing so because of the charter of the Portland Water District; and

Whereas, ice fishing in the lower bay of Sebago Lake plays an important part in the economy of Standish and surrounding communities in addition to providing a much needed recreational outlet for the citizens of those communities; and

Whereas, unless immediate legislative action is taken, ice fishing will be prohibited during this entire winter with consequent harm to the economy and morale of the citizens of Standish and surrounding communities; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

P & SL 1913, c. 157, § 2, first ¶, as last amended by P & SL 1971, c. 77, is further amended to read:

No person shall bathe ~~or carry on ice fishing~~ in the waters of Sebago Lake within 2 miles of the intakes of the Portland Water District, nor shall any person wash linen or other articles of personal apparel in the waters of said lake. In addition to the foregoing provision, no person shall, within the following described restricted area near the intakes of the Portland Water District, **carry on ice fishing**, operate any boat or any motorized vehicle, including snowmobiles, or trespass. The Portland Water District is authorized to place buoys in the waters of Sebago Lake and markers on the ice to define ~~the above prohibited~~ this restricted area. Any such buoys placed in the waters of Sebago Lake shall be plainly marked as required by the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation under the Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 323. To the extent that this statute prohibits the operation of a boat or vehicles or the carrying on of ice fishing in an area greater than prohibited by the general laws, this Act shall apply as provided in the Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2437.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Ice fishing has been prohibited this year under a portion of the charter of the Portland Water District. Ice fishing in this area has been traditional and has been a great asset to the economy of the area and to the recreation of the citizens of Standish and surrounding communities. This bill will restore ice fishing to most of the lower bay of Sebago Lake while still leaving an area near the intake pipes of the Portland Water District in order to protect the purity of the water used by the district.