

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2254

S. P. 718

In Senate, February 24, 1976

Reported by Senator Berry of Cumberland from Committee on Performance Audit pursuant to Joint Order (S. P. 587) and printed under Joint Rules No. 3.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

(Filed under Joint Rule 3, pursuant to S. P. 587)

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT to Provide Funds to the Department of Inland  
Fisheries and Wildlife.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 1903, 2nd sentence, is repealed as follows:

~~The expenses of the commissioner in attempting to find lost persons shall be charged to the General Fund.~~

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 1908 is enacted to read:

§ 1908. General Fund appropriation

For each year of the biennium there shall be appropriated from the General Fund an amount which shall equal the mathematical product of the "stated percentage" and the "adjusted budget" of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Stated percentage. "Stated percentage" shall be a percent, not to exceed 10%, determined by the Legislature as the appropriate percent of the "adjusted budget" of the department to be paid out of the General Fund. In determining such percent, account shall be taken of projection of department surpluses and revenues projected to be available; necessary expenditures; needs for working capital and funds for contingencies; the amount of the adjusted budget projected and material contained in the special report of the commissioner. Such determination shall be made at each regular session of the Legislature, prior to and for use in the next succeeding fiscal year.

The commissioner shall submit a special report to the Fisheries and Wildlife Committee of the Legislature within 15 days after convening of each regular legislative session. The report shall contain, for the preceding, current and next succeeding fiscal years, information and data showing the percentage and costs of personnel time spent on particular duties assigned to each bureau and division, the use of fisheries and wildlife facilities by persons other than licensees of the department and a comparison of revenues with costs for each program of the department; and

2. Adjusted budget. The "adjusted budget" shall be the total amount projected for expenditure by the department for the next succeeding fiscal year minus an amount equal to the sum, projected for such fiscal year, of expenditures for federal grants and non-federal capital expenditures and made from other state funds.

#### FISCAL NOTE

The appropriation from the General Fund required by this Act will vary according to the needs of the department

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill results from a study undertaken by the Joint Standing Committee on Performance Audit, pursuant to S. P. 587. The committee studied the operation of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to determine the extent that department personnel devotes its time and resources to implementing environmental laws and regulations. In recent years an increasing burden has been placed on the department for the duties that the committee decided should be funded from general revenues and not totally supported by fishing and hunting licenses.