

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 163

H. P. 129 House of Representatives, January 26, 1977
Referred to Committee on Performance Audit. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dow of West Gardiner.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 1903, 2nd sentence is repealed as follows: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 § 1907 is enacted to read:

§ 1907. 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 that 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; and the amount of the adjusted budget projected and material contained in the special report of the commissioner. This 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 that fiscal year, of expenditures for federal grants and non-federal capital expenditures and made from other state funds.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill originally resulted from a study undertaken by the Joint Standing Committee on Performance Audit, pursuant to S. P. 587 of the 107th Legislature. 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.