

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

**Legislative Document**

**No. 1931**

H. P. 1827

House of Representatives, February 12, 1980

Reported by Mr. Dow from The Joint Select Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to H. P. 1517 and printed under Joint Rules No. 17.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

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

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

**Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1980-81

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,  
DEPARTMENT OF

All Other

\$1,000,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is undergoing a severe fiscal crisis and soon will be completely out of money. Dedicated revenues from licenses and fees have simply not kept pace with rising costs due to inflation. Without additional revenues, the department will have completely expended available funds by this September. The department has severely cut back new programs, capital expenditures and miscellaneous accounts, such as travel. Further cuts, however, will have to be in personnel. To avoid either this or the need to call a special session of the Legislature, this bill will transfer \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the fish and wildlife account. The money will not be expended, however, unless it is absolutely necessary.

For many years the department has provided many important services to the people of the State, such as searching for lost persons and enforcing environmental laws. It has been funded, however, almost entirely by sportsmen through hunting and fishing license sales. This one-time transfer from the General Fund to alleviate the present crisis represents a small fraction of the cost of accrued services provided by the department to the general public.