

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1934

H. P. 1830

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 Rule 17.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Adjust License Fees, for Inflation, for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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

12 MRSA § 7034, sub-§ 8 is enacted to read:

8. Recommended license fees. The commissioner shall, by January 15th of each biennium, recommend to the Legislature a license fee schedule for the following 2 calendar years. This schedule of fees shall be designed to raise sufficient revenues to cover necessary expenses of the department.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to recommend a license fee schedule to the Legislature each biennium. The department is financed almost exclusively by dedicated revenues. Even though the department is not expanding its personnel or programs, costs are rising rapidly. The cost increases are due to inflation generally, and high personal services in particular. To maintain the current levels of services, revenues must increase.

Historically, license fee increases have occurred every 3 or 4 years. Each time fees have increased, sales have fallen off for a year or so and then come back to about the same level. With the current high rate of inflation, putting off fee increases will only increase the impact of the fee increase when it inevitably goes

up. By requiring the commissioner to recommend fee schedules biennially, the Legislature can enact fee levels that are sufficient to finance the department in a more systematic and orderly way.