

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1941

H. P. 1837

House of Representatives, February 12, 1980

Reported by Mr. Dow from the Joint Select Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Order H. P. 1517 and ordered 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 Allocate $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the Sales and Use Tax to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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

36 MRSA § 1907 is enacted to read:

§ 1907. Finding of fact; disposition of revenues

The Legislature finds that a significant portion of the commerce and economic well-being of the State is dependent on fish and wildlife resources. It further finds that a substantial portion of retail sales are related to fishing, hunting, camping and other equipment related to these fish and wildlife resources. Therefore, the Legislature makes a finding of fact that at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the revenues of the sales and use tax is paid by sportsmen. Based on this finding of fact, there is set aside $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the total sales and use tax to be paid to the State Treasurer and credited to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Fund. These revenues shall be used by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to protect, preserve and enhance the fish and wildlife resources of the State.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports are a vital part of tourism, Maine's 2nd largest industry. A substantial part of the retail trade is related to and

dependent on fish and wildlife resources. This bill allocates $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the sales and use tax revenues to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to help manage this vital resource. The bill will raise approximately \$1,000,000 annually for the department.