

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1624

S.P. 558

In Senate, May 16, 1983

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Referred to the Committee on Marine Resources. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Minkowsky of Androscoggin.

Cosponsors: Representative Vose of Eastport and Representative Scarpino of St. George.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE

AN ACT Concerning Volunteer Marine
Patrol Officers.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, additional periodic enforcement of the marine resources laws are needed; and

Whereas, this need cannot adequately be filled by the existing number of marine patrol officers; and

Whereas, it is vitally necessary that these enforcement needs be met; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-

1 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
2 therefore,

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

5 12 MRSA §6028 is enacted to read:

6 §6028. Volunteer marine patrol officers

7 1. Appointment. The commissioner may appoint
8 volunteer marine patrol officers upon such conditions
9 as the commissioner may determine. Volunteer marine
10 patrol officers shall serve without compensation and
11 may be paid actual automobile costs at the rate paid
12 to state employees.

13 2. Powers and duties. Volunteer marine patrol
14 officers shall have the same powers and duties as
15 marine patrol officers specified in section 6025,
16 except that the exercise of these powers and duties
17 shall be limited to marine resources laws set out in
18 chapters 601 to 627, inclusive, and department regu-
19 lations adopted pursuant to these statutes. Volun-
20 teer marine patrol officers shall complete reserve
21 officer training at the Maine Criminal Justice Acade-
22 my pursuant to Title 25, section 2805-A prior to
23 assuming these duties. They may carry firearms
24 during the performance of these duties.

25 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited
26 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when
27 approved.

28 STATEMENT OF FACT

29 This bill provides an inexpensive and flexible
30 means for the Department of Marine Resources to
31 supplement its existing complement of marine patrol
32 officers. Volunteer marine patrol officers would be
33 used primarily during the extremely busy summer
34 months to broaden and supplement the range of the
35 department's enforcement efforts. Their use would be
36 targeted toward seasonal responsibilities such as
37 Atlantic salmon and striped bass regulations.

1 Volunteer marine patrol officers will complete
2 reserve officers training at the Maine Criminal Jus-
3 tice Academy and the Department of Marine Resources
4 law course before being assigned duties under super-
5 vision by regular marine patrol officers

6 Appointments would be limited and subject to
7 review. The program would be instituted on a trial
8 basis. Only qualified persons would be selected.

9 Similar programs are used in the Department of
10 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in Vermont and Penn-
11 sylvania.

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