

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2320

H.P. 1758

House of Representatives, March 20, 1984

Submitted pursuant to Joint Order H.P. 1586.

Reported by the Majority from the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to H.P. 1586 and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Reimburse the Department of
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for Duties
Performed which are Mandatory Nonfish and
Nongame Related.

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

Whereas, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife was established to ensure that all species of wildlife and aquatic resources in the State are maintained and perpetuated for their intrinsic and ecological values, for their economic contribution and for their recreational, scientific and educational use by the people of the State; and

Whereas, the Legislature recognizes a need to address the immediate financial problems of the department as quickly and efficiently as possible to ensure

1 when approved.

2 FISCAL NOTE

3 This bill will decrease general fund revenues
4 available by \$461,164 in fiscal year 1984-85.

5 STATEMENT OF FACT

6 Each year the Department of Inland Fisheries and
7 Wildlife expends hundreds of thousands of dollars for
8 services to the public and other departments of State
9 Government which are required by law. The department
10 personnel, especially wardens, are called upon to
11 search for lost children and adults; rescue stranded
12 hikers; inspect for environmental law permit applica-
13 tions and violations and assist other law enforcement
14 officers, including sheriffs, municipal police offi-
15 cers and the State Police to investigate violations
16 of law and assist citizens in life-threatening situa-
17 tions.

18 These expenditures are made from funds allocated
19 to the department from money paid for hunting and
20 fishing licenses. The department personnel are
21 called upon for these tasks because they are trained
22 and conveniently located to respond promptly. It is
23 an efficient use of available personnel by the State.
24 However, these nonfish and nongame related responsi-
25 bilities can not be supported from already insuffi-
26 cient funds.

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