

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1724

6 H.P. 1216

House of Representatives, December 24, 1985

7 Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant
8 to Joint Rule 24.

9 Received by the Clerk of the House on December 24, 1985. Referred to
10 the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife and 1,600 ordered printed pursuant
to Joint Rule 14.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Jacques of Waterville.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Matthews of Kennebec and Representative
Walker of Norway.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX
16

17 AN ACT Pertaining to Local Registration of
18 Watercraft.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7792, sub-§1-A, as enacted by
23 PL 1983, c. 588, §12, is amended to read:

24 1-A. Municipal watercraft registration. Rules
25 authorizing the commissioner to delegate to municipi-
26 palities the authority to issue watercraft registra-
27 tions. These rules shall include provisions for the
28 municipalities to retain reasonable administrative
29 costs from fees collected. With the approval of the
30 municipal officers of a municipality, the commission-
31 er may appoint municipal clerks, tax collectors or
32 such other persons that a municipality may designate
33 as agents to issue watercraft registrations.

34 Agents may charge a service fee of not more than \$1
35 for each watercraft registration issued and this ser-
36 vice fee shall be retained by the municipality.

1 Each municipal agent shall report to the commissioner
2 on or before the 15th day of each calendar month. The
3 report shall include an accounting of all watercraft
4 registration issued during the previous calendar
5 month and shall be accompanied by:

6 A. The department's copy of each registration
7 issued; and

8 B. All watercraft registration funds collected
9 by the agent during the reporting period;

10 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7793, sub-§1, as enacted by PL
11 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read:

12 1. Register watercraft. The commissioner shall
13 annually register watercraft and issue certificates,
14 licenses and permits as provided in this subchapter.

15 Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7793, sub-§5, ¶¶A & B, as en-
16 acted by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, are amended to read:

17 A. Where the legal residence of the applicant is
18 a municipality within the State, the commissioner
19 shall mail annually such a list to the ~~assessor~~
20 ~~or assessors~~ tax collector of that municipality.

21 B. Where the legal residence of the applicant is
22 outside of the State and the boat is situated
23 within a municipality in the State, the commis-
24 sioner shall mail annually such a list to the ~~as-~~
25 ~~essor or assessors~~ tax collector of that munici-
26 pality.

27 Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §7794, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by
28 PL 1983, c. 92, Pt. B, §2, is further amended to
29 read:

30 A. All watercraft requiring or requesting cer-
31 tificate of number \$ 6 4

32 Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §7794, sub-§9, as amended by PL
33 1983, c. 572, §§3 and 12, is further amended to read:

34 9. Expiration. Every certificate of number
35 awarded under this subchapter continues in force un-
36 til December 31st of the calendar year after the year

1 of issuance the last day of the 12th month after the
2 month of issuance.

3 Sec. 6. Allocation. The following funds are al-
4 located from the Department of Inland Fisheries and
5 Wildlife to carry out the purposes of this Act.

6 1986-87

7 BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATIVE
8 SERVICES

| | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------|
| 9 | Positions | (1) |
| 10 | Personal Services | \$26,000 |
| 11 | Capital Expenditures | 4,000 |
| 12 | All Other | <u>30,000</u> |

13 Total \$60,000

14 Provides funds for
15 one full-time Data
16 Entry Specialist and
17 one season Clerk Typ-
18 ist II; one computer
19 terminal and printer;
20 and increased comput-
21 er time associated
22 with annual registra-
23 tion of watercraft.

24 Sec. 7. Effective date. This Act takes effect
25 January 1, 1987.

26 STATEMENT OF FACT

27 The purpose of this bill is to provide for regis-
28 trations of watercraft at the local level and elimi-
29 nate the inconvenience and delay frequently experi-
30 enced by boat owners in having to send to Augusta be-
31 fore they can use their boat. Under the provisions of
32 this bill, a boat owner will be able to pay his wa-
33 tercraft excise tax and register his boat by making
34 one stop at the municipal office in the town where he
35 resides.

1 This bill also reduces the watercraft registra-
2 tion period from 2 years to one year. Annual regis-
3 tration is consistent with the watercraft excise tax
4 and facilitates the annual collection of these taxes
5 by the municipalities.

6 The watercraft registration fee will be increased
7 by \$1 annually to cover additional administrative
8 costs associated with the tabulation of monthly re-
9 ports from 500 municipalities and the automation of
10 120,000 watercraft on an annual basis. In addition,
11 municipalities retain a \$1 service fee for each reg-
12 istration issued.

13 A companion bill amending the watercraft excise
14 tax law will be heard before the Joint Standing Com-
15 mittee on Taxation.

16 5494121285