

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2018

H.P. 1484 House of Representatives, January 12, 1988
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife
suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative ROTONDI of Athens.
Cosponsored by Representative JACQUES of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Require a Turtle Trapping
License.

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

Whereas, snapping turtles are trapped during the
summer months; and

Whereas, the disposal of unwanted snapping turtles by trappers in the past has created a nuisance and public health hazard; and

Whereas, rules regarding snapping turtles should be promulgated by the department before trappers become active; 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 preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

12 MRSA §7470 is enacted to read:

§7470. Snapping turtles

1. Snapping turtle license. The commissioner shall issue licenses for trapping snapping turtles. The fee for this license is \$10.

2. Rules pertaining to snapping turtles. The commissioner shall promulgate rules pertaining to trapping and disposing of unwanted snapping turtles.

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

This State supports an active trade in snapping turtle meat used in soups and other delicacies. However, there have been several instances of trappers disposing of dozens of unwanted, unviable turtles at a site, when their markets dry up, creating a nuisance and public health hazard. Public concern and misunderstanding following these incidents has been

1 considerable. To address this problem this bill
2 creates a license to trap snapping turtles and
3 requires the commissioner to promulgate regulations
4 for their trapping and disposal.

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