

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

NO. 2276

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H.P. 1664 House of Representatives, February 16, 1988  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the  
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.  
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and  
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.  
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative GREENLAW of Standish.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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1 AN ACT to Require Payment for Inland Fisheries and  
2 Wildlife Wardens Out of the General Fund.  
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4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
5 follows:

6 12 MRSA §7018 is enacted to read:

7 §7018. General Fund appropriation for fish and  
8 wildlife protection



1 The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, a  
2 dedicated revenue agency, is financed primarily with  
3 funds derived from the sale of hunting, fishing and  
4 trapping licenses.

5 Anticipated license revenues will be sufficient to  
6 allow the department to carry out its legislative  
7 mandates through June 30, 1989. At that time, faced  
8 with a new wage contract, dedicated revenue sources  
9 will no longer be sufficient to allow the department  
10 to continue to provide the current level of services.

11 The Bureau of Warden Service has the primary  
12 responsibility for protecting the fish and wildlife  
13 resources and, as a statewide law enforcement  
14 organization with full police powers, provides  
15 numerous other services to the people of Maine.

16 The citizens of Maine benefit from the State's  
17 fish and wildlife resources but many do not assist in  
18 funding the agency responsible for protecting these  
19 resources.

20 Therefore, this bill is to provide a General Fund  
21 appropriation for the Department of Inland Fisheries  
22 and Wildlife to pay for 20% of the operational costs  
23 of Maine's warden service.

24 The Commission to Study the Impact of Game and  
25 Nongame Species on Maine's Economy, a commission  
26 created by the Legislature in 1987, recently initiated  
27 a study through the University of Maine System to  
28 analyze the impact of fish and wildlife resources on  
29 Maine's economy, to analyze the costs of managing  
30 these resources and to evaluate alternative funding  
31 mechanisms for managing these resources. Results of  
32 this study will be used to develop a proposal which  
33 will address the department's long-term funding  
34 needs. However, the final results of this study will  
35 not be available until the summer of 1990.

36 The General Fund appropriation associated with  
37 this bill will give the department approximately  
38 \$1,000,000 in additional money in each of the 2 fiscal  
39 years beginning with July 1, 1989. This supplemental  
40 appropriation will ensure that a portion of the cost  
41 of protecting Maine's fish and wildlife resources is

1 shared by all Maine citizens. These additional funds  
2 will also allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and  
3 Wildlife to continue to meet legislative mandates  
4 without additional license fee increases through the  
5 2-year budget period which begins on July 1, 1989.

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