

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

---

Legislative Document

No. 866

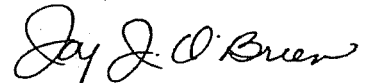
---

S.P. 329

In Senate, March 21, 1989

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

Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOULD of Waldo.  
Cosponsored by Representative GREENLAW of Standish.

---

STATE OF MAINE

---

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

---

An Act to Establish Free Fishing Days in Maine.

---



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

3 12 MRSA §7035, sub-§11-A is enacted to read:

5 11-A. Free fishing days. As a means to promote sport  
7 fishing within the inland waters of the State, the commissioner  
9 may designate no more than 2 days in each calendar year as "free  
11 fishing days." Notwithstanding section 7371 as it applies to  
13 section 7151, it shall be lawful during any free fishing day  
15 established pursuant to this subsection for any person to fish  
17 without a license in the inland waters, except that this  
19 provision shall not apply to any person whose license to fish is  
21 under suspension or revocation. All other provisions of chapters  
23 701 to 721 relating to fish shall be applicable during any free  
25 fishing day.

#### 17 STATEMENT OF FACT

19 Free fishing days were first established in other states in  
21 1984 as a way to encourage newcomers to try the sport. As of  
23 last year, 26 states had one or more free fishing days, usually  
in June to coincide with National Fishing Week, and 5 other  
states had legislation pending.

25 This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries  
27 and Wildlife, through rule-making powers, to establish up to 2  
free fishing days in Maine each year. On these days it will be  
legal for any person to fish in the inland waters of the State  
29 without first obtaining a fishing license. Other fishing  
regulations will remain in effect on these days. Free fishing  
31 days will help promote good public relations, will encourage  
nonfishermen to take up the sport of angling and will eventually  
33 serve to enhance Maine's tourist industry.