



## 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1588

H.P. 1145

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House of Representatives, May 9, 1989

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, Senator ERWIN of Oxford and Senator GOULD of Waldo.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act Concerning Wardens of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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

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12 MRSA §7053, sub-§2, ¶C-1 is enacted to read:

C-1. Conduct searches of premises where there is probable cause to believe that evidence of a violation of chapters 701 to 721 is located and seize that evidence. If a search warrant has been obtained to conduct a search under this paragraph, if no one is present on the premises at the time that a game warden seeks to execute the warrant and if the premises are locked, the game warden shall not forcibly enter the premises, but instead may seal the premises from access by anyone. In no circumstances may the game warden destroy private property or leave the premises unlocked;

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## STATEMENT OF FACT

19 The purpose of this bill is to authorize searches of private property by game wardens to secure evidence of violations of the 21 fisheries and wildlife laws, but to ensure that these searches do not damage private property or lead to the damage or theft of the 23 property by others.