MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1806

S.P. 685

In Senate, August 21, 1989

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on August 18, 1989. Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs and 1,400 ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ESTY of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act Providing for the Immediate Enforcement of Laws Governing the Operation of a Watercraft While Under the Influence.

, (EMERGENCY)

The State of the Contract



	Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
2	become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
4	Whereas, it is necessary that this legislation be enacted as
6	an emergency so that the law can take effect during the present recreational season; and
8	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
10	create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
12	necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
14	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
16	Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7801, sub-§9, as amended by PL 1981, c. 698,
18	§74, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:
20	9. Operating watercraft while under the influence or with excessive blood-alcohol level. A person is quilty of a criminal
22	violation if that person operates or attempts to operate any watercraft:
24	waterCrait:
44	A. While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or
26	drugs or a combination of liquor and drugs; or
28	B. While having 0.08% or more by weight of alcohol in that person's blood.
30	Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7801, sub-§9-A is enacted to read:
32	9-A. Failure to comply with duty to submit. A person is
34	guilty of failure to comply with the duty to submit to and complete a blood-alcohol test under section 7802 if that person
36	refuses to submit to or fails to complete a blood-alcohol test when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer:
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	A. Who has probable cause to believe that the person
40	<pre>operated or attempted to operate a watercraft while under the influence of intoxicating liquor; or</pre>
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	B. When the person was the operator of a watercraft
44	involved in a watercraft accident which results in the death
4.5	of any person, as provided in section 7912, subsection 11.
46	Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7802 is enacted to read:
48	Title The Figure 9. and To present as road.
	§7802. Implied consent to chemical tests
50	
52	Any person who operates or attempts to operate a watercraft within this State shall have the duty to submit to a test to
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	<u>determine that person's blood-alcohol level by analysis of blood</u>
2	or breath, if there is probable cause to believe that person has
	operated or attempted to operate a watercraft while under the
4	influence of intoxicating liquor. The duty to submit to a
	<u>blood-alcohol test includes the duty to complete either a blood</u>
.б	or breath test. Tests and procedures applicable in determining
	whether a person is under the influence are governed by section
8	<u>7912.</u>
10	Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §7901, sub-§§13 and 14 are enacted to read:
12	13. Penalties for operating or attempting to operate a
7.4	watercraft while under the influence or with an excessive
14	blood-alcohol level. The offense defined in section 7801,
1 <i>6</i>	subsection 9, is a Class D crime. In determining an appropriate
16	sentence, refusal to submit to a chemical test shall in every
18	case be an aggravating factor. In the following cases the following minimum penalties shall apply.
10	torrowing minimum penarties sharr appry.
20	A. Except as provided in paragraph B, in the case of a
20	person having no previous convictions of a violation of
22	section 7801, subsection 9, and having no previous
	adjudications of failure to comply with the duty to submit
24	to and complete a blood-alcohol test under section 7802,
	within a 6-year period, the fine shall not be less than
26	\$300. Beginning July 1, 1990, the penalties provided in
	this paragraph may not be suspended.
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	B. In the case of a person having no previous convictions
30	of a violation of section 7801, subsection 9, and having no
	previous adjudications of failure to comply with the duty to
32	submit to and complete a blood-alcohol test under section
	7802, within a 6-year period, the fine shall not be less
34	than \$300 and the sentence shall include a period of
	incarceration of not less than 48 hours, which penalties may
36	not be suspended, when the person:
38	(1) Was tested as having a blood-alcohol level of
, 0	0.15% or more;
10	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	(2) Failed or refused to stop upon request or signal
12	of an officer in uniform, as defined in section 6953 or
	7060, during the operation which resulted in
14	prosecution for operating under the influence or with a
	blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or more; or
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	(3) Failed to submit to a chemical test to determine
8	that person's blood-alcohol level, at the request of a
	law enforcement officer on the occasion which resulted
0	in the conviction.

C. In the case of a person having one previous conviction of a violation of section 7801, subsection 9, or one 2 previous adjudication of failure to comply with the duty to 4 submit to and complete a blood-alcohol test under section 7802, within a 6-year period, the fine shall not be less than \$500 and the sentence shall include a period of 6 incarceration of not less than 7 days, which penalties may not be suspended. 8 10 In the case of a person having 2 or more previous convictions of violations of section 7801, subsection 9, or 12 adjudications of failure to comply with the duty to submit to and complete a blood-alcohol test under section 7802, 14 within a 6-year period, the fine shall not be less than \$750 and the sentence shall include a period of incarceration of not less than 30 days, which penalties may not be suspended. 16 18 E. In addition to the penalties provided under paragraphs C and D, the court may order the defendant to participate in 20 the alcohol and other drug education, evaluation and treatment programs for multiple offenders administered by 22 the Department of Human Services, as defined in Title 22, chapter 1602. 24 The penalties provided under paragraphs B, C, D and, beginning July 1, 1990, paragraph A, shall not be suspended 26 by the court. 28 G. If the State pleads and proves that, while operating a watercraft in violation of this section, the actor in fact 30 caused serious bodily injury as defined in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 23, to another person or in fact 32 caused the death of another person, the sentencing class for 34 the offense in section 7801, subsection 9, is a Class C crime. The minimum penalties specified in this subsection shall apply, but the minimum period of suspension shall be 36 18 months unless a longer minimum period otherwise applies. 38 The alternatives defined in section 7801, subsection 9, paragraphs A and B may be pleaded in the alternative. The State 40 may, but shall not be required to, elect prior to submission to 42 the fact finder. For purposes of this section, a prior conviction has occurred 44 within the 6-year period if the date of docket entry by the clerk 46 of a judgment of conviction or adjudication is 6 years or less from the date of the new conduct which is penalized or for which the penalty is or may be enhanced. 48 In determining the appropriate sentence, the court shall consider 50

the defendant's record of convictions for operating under the

influence and for failure to comply with the duty to submit. The

court may rely upon oral representations based on records maintained by the courts, by the State Bureau of Identification, by the Secretary of State, including telecommunications of records maintained by the Secretary of State, or by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. If the defendant disputes the accuracy of any representation concerning a conviction or adjudication, the court shall grant a continuance for the purposes of determining the accuracy of the record.

References in this Title to this section shall be determined also to refer to the juvenile crime stated in Title 15, section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph E and to the disposition, including a suspension, for that juvenile crime as provided in Title 15, section 3314, subsection 3, except as otherwise provided or except when the context clearly requires otherwise.

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14. Penalties for failure to comply with duty to submit.

The offense defined in section 7801, subsection 9-A, is a civil violation for which a forfeiture of up to \$500 may be adjudged.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §7912 is enacted to read:

§7912. Tests and procedures for operating under the influence or with an excessive blood-alcohol level

1. Blood or breath test. If the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe a person operated or attempted to operate a watercraft while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, then the officer shall inform the person that a breath test will be administered, unless, in the determination of the officer, it is unreasonable for a breath test to be administered, in which case a blood test shall be administered. When a blood test is required, the test may be administered by a physician of the accused's choice, at the request of the accused and if reasonably available. The law enforcement officer may determine which type of breath test, as described in subsection 5, is to be administered.

2. Prerequisites to tests. Before any test is given, the law enforcement officer shall inform the person to be tested that, if that person fails to comply with the duty to submit to and complete a blood-alcohol test to determine the level of blood-alcohol at the direction of the officer, that person will be committing a civil violation for which the person may be required to pay a civil forfeiture of up to \$500. The officer shall also inform the person that the failure to comply with the duty to submit to a blood-alcohol test shall be admissible in evidence against that person at any trial for operating under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

No test results may be excluded as evidence in any proceeding before any administrative officer or court of this State as a

result of the failure of the law enforcement officer to comply
with these prerequisites. The only effects of the failure of the
officer to comply with the prerequisites shall be as provided in
subsection 7.

Results of test. Upon the request of the person who
submits to a chemical test or tests at the request of a law
enforcement officer, full information concerning the test or
tests shall be made available to that person or that person's
attorney by the law enforcement officer.

Results of test. Upon the request of the person who
submits to a chemical test or tests at the request of a law
enforcement officer, full information concerning the test or
tests shall be made available to that person or that person's
attorney by the law enforcement officer.

4. Blood-alcohol level. The following percentages by weight of alcohol in the defendant's blood shall have the following evidentiary effect.

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- A. If there was, at the time alleged, 0.05% or less by weight of alcohol in the defendant's blood, it is prima facie evidence that the defendant was not under the influence of intoxicating liquor.
- B. If there was, at the time alleged, in excess of 0.05% but less than 0.08% by weight of alcohol in the defendant's blood, it is relevant evidence, but it is not to be given prima facie effect in indicating whether or not the defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor within the meaning of this section, but that fact may be considered with other competent evidence in determining whether or not the defendant was under the influence of intoxicating liquor.
- C. For purposes of evidence in proceedings other than those arising under section 7801, subsection 9, it shall be presumed that a person was under the influence of intoxicating liquor when that person has a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or more by weight.
- D. Percent by weight of alcohol in the blood shall be based upon grams of alcohol per 100 hundred milliliters of blood.
- 5. Administration of tests. Persons conducting analyses of blood or breath for the purpose of determining the blood-alcohol level shall be certified for this purpose by the Department of Human Services under certification standards to be set by that department.
- Only a duly licensed physician, registered physician's assistant, registered nurse or a person certified by the Department of Human Services under certification standards to be set by that department, acting at the request of a law enforcement officer, may draw a specimen of blood to determine the blood-alcohol level of a person who is complying with the duty to submit to a blood-alcohol test. This limitation shall not apply to the

taking of breath specimens. When a person draws a specimen of blood at the request of a law enforcement officer, that person may issue a certificate which states that the person is in fact a duly licensed or certified person as required by this paragraph and that the person followed the proper procedure for drawing a specimen of blood to determine the blood-alcohol level. That certificate, when duly signed and sworn to by the person, shall be admissible in evidence in any court of the State. It is prima facie evidence that the person was duly licensed or certified and that the person followed the proper procedure for drawing a specimen of blood to determine the blood-alcohol level, unless, with 10-days' written notice to the prosecution, the defendant requests that the person testify as to licensure or certification, or the procedure for drawing the specimen of blood.

A law enforcement officer may take a sample specimen of the breath of any person whom the officer has probable cause to believe operated or attempted to operate a watercraft while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and who is complying with the duty to submit to and complete a blood-alcohol test. The sample specimen shall be submitted to the Department of Human Services or a person certified by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of conducting chemical tests of the sample specimen to determine the blood-alcohol level of that sample.

Only equipment approved by the Department of Human Services shall be used by a law enforcement officer to take a sample specimen of the defendant's breath for submission to the Department of Human Services or a person certified by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of conducting tests of the sample specimen to determine the blood-alcohol level of that sample. Approved equipment shall have a stamp of approval affixed by the Department of Human Services. Evidence that the equipment was in a sealed carton bearing the stamp of approval shall be accepted in court as prima facie evidence that the equipment was approved by the Department of Human Services for use by the law enforcement officer to take the sample specimen of the defendant's breath.

As an alternative to the method of breath testing described in this subsection, a law enforcement officer may test the breath of any person, whom the officer has probable cause to believe operated or attempted to operate a watercraft while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, by use of a self-contained, breath-alcohol testing apparatus to determine the blood-alcohol level, provided the testing apparatus is reasonably available. The procedures for the operation and testing of self-contained, breath-alcohol testing apparatuses shall be as provided by rule adopted by the Department of Human Services. The result of any such test shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of the blood-alcohol level in any court.

- 2 Approved self-contained, breath-alcohol testing apparatuses shall have a stamp of approval affixed by the Department of Human Services after periodic testing. That stamp of approval shall be 4 valid for a limited period of no more than one year. Testimony or other evidence that the equipment was bearing the stamp of 6 approval shall be accepted in court as prima facie evidence that 8 the equipment was approved by the Department of Human Services for use by the law enforcement officer to collect and analyze a
- sample specimen of the defendant's breath. 10
- 12 Failure to comply with any provision of this subsection or with any rule adopted under this subsection shall not, by itself, result in the exclusion of evidence of blood-alcohol level, 14 unless the evidence is determined to be not sufficiently reliable.

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- Testimony or other evidence that any materials used in operating 18 or checking the operation of the equipment were bearing a statement of the manufacturer or of the Department of Human 20 Services shall be accepted in court as prima facie evidence that the materials were of a composition and quality as stated.
 - A person certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, under certification standards to be set by the academy, as qualified to operate approved self-contained, breath-alcohol testing apparatuses may operate those apparatuses to collect and analyze a sample specimen of a defendant's breath.
 - Liability. No physician, physician's assistant, registered nurse, person certified by the Department of Human Services or hospital or other health care provider in the exercise of due care may be liable in damages or otherwise for any act done or omitted in performing the act of collecting or withdrawing specimens of blood at the request of a law enforcement officer pursuant to this section.
 - 7. Evidence. The percentage by weight of alcohol in the defendant's blood at the time alleged, as shown by the chemical analysis of the defendant's blood or breath or by results of a self-contained, breath-alcohol testing apparatus authorized by subsection 5, shall be admissible in evidence.
 - When a person, certified under subsection 5, conducts a chemical analysis of blood or breath to determine blood-alcohol level, the person may issue a certificate stating the results of the analysis. That certificate, when duly signed and sworn to by the certified person, shall be admissible in evidence in any court of the State. It shall be prima facie evidence that the person taking a specimen of blood was a person authorized by subsection 5; that the equipment, chemicals and other materials used in the taking of the blood specimen or a breath sample were of a quality appropriate for the purpose of producing reliable test results;

- that any equipment, chemicals or materials required by subsection 2 5 to be approved by the Department of Human Services were in fact approved; that the sample tested by the person certified under subsection 5 was in fact the same sample taken from the defendant; and that the percentage by weight of alcohol in the 6 defendant's blood was, at the time the blood or breath sample was taken, as stated in the certificate, unless with 10-days' written 8 notice to the prosecution, the defendant requests that a qualified witness testify as to any of the matters as to which 10 the certificate constitutes prima facie evidence. The notice shall specify those matters concerning which the defendant 12 requests testimony.
- 14 A person certified under subsection 5, as qualified to operate a self-contained, breath-alcohol testing apparatus to determine the 16 blood-alcohol level, may issue a certificate stating the results of the analysis. That certificate, when duly signed and sworn to 18 by the certified person, shall be admissible in evidence in any court of the State. It shall be prima facie evidence that the percentage by weight of alcohol in the defendant's blood was, at 20 the time the breath sample was taken, as stated in the 22 certificate, unless, with 10-days' written notice to the prosecution, the defendant requests that the operator or other qualified witness testify as to the results of the analysis. 24
- Transfer of sample specimens to and from a laboratory for purposes of analysis may be by certified or registered mail and, when so made, shall be deemed to comply with all requirements regarding the continuity of custody of physical evidence.

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- The failure of a person to comply with the duty to submit to and 32 complete a blood-alcohol test under section 7802 shall be admissible in evidence on the issue of whether that person was under the influence of intoxicating liquor. If the law 34 enforcement officer having probable cause to believe that the 36 person operated or attempted to operate a watercraft under the influence of intoxicating liquor fails to give either of the 38 warnings required under subsection 2, the failure of the person to comply with the duty to submit to a blood-alcohol test shall 40 not be admissible, except when a test was required pursuant to subsection 11. If a failure to submit to and complete a 42 blood-alcohol test is not admitted into evidence, the court may inform the jury of the fact that no test result is available.
- If a test result is not available for a reason other than failing
 to comply with the duty to submit to and complete a blood-alcohol
 test, the unavailability and the reason shall be admissible in
 evidence.
- 8. Statements by accused. Any statement by a defendant that the defendant was the operator of a watercraft, which the defendant is accused of operating in violation of section 7801,

subsection 9, shall be admissible if it was made voluntarily and is otherwise admissible under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine. The statement may constitute sufficient proof by itself, without further proof of corpus delicti, that the watercraft was operated and was operated by the defendant.

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9. Payment for tests. Persons authorized to take specimens of blood at the direction of a law enforcement officer and persons authorized to perform chemical tests of specimens of blood or breath shall be paid from the General Fund or from dedicated revenues of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife when a law enforcement officer of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife authorizes the chemical tests. The Department of Marine Resources shall pay for chemical tests authorized by marine patrol officers with funds available within that department.

10. Accidents and officer's duties. The law enforcement officer shall have the following duties.

A. After a person has been charged with operating or attempting to operate a watercraft under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or with an excessive blood-alcohol level, the investigating or arresting officer shall investigate to determine whether the charged person has any previous convictions of a violation of section 7801, subsection 9, or adjudications for failure to comply with the duty to submit to and complete a blood-alcohol test under section 7802. As part of that investigation, the officer shall review the records maintained by the courts, the State Bureau of Identification, the Secretary of State, including telecommunications of records maintained by the Secretary of State, or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

B. A law enforcement officer may arrest, without a warrant, any person whom the officer has probable cause to believe operated or attempted to operate a watercraft while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs if the arrest occurs within a period following the offense reasonably likely to result in the obtaining of probative evidence of blood-alcohol level.

11. Watercraft fatality. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, each operator of a watercraft involved in a watercraft accident which results in the death of any person shall submit to and complete a test to determine that person's blood-alcohol level by analysis of blood or breath. A law enforcement officer may determine which type of test shall be administered. The result of a test taken pursuant to this paragraph is not admissible at trial unless the court is

satisfied that probable cause exists, independent of the test result, to believe that the operator was under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or had an excessive blood-alcohol level.

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12. Aid in enforcement among municipalities. Except as otherwise prohibited by municipal charter or ordinance, municipalities may, in the manner provided by Title 30-A, section 2674, enter into agreements regarding mutual aid in enforcing laws governing the operation of a watercraft while under the influence.

Sec. 6. 15 MRSA §3103, sub-§1, ¶E, as amended by PL 1985, c. 214, §1, is further amended to read:

- E. Offenses involving the operation or attempted operation of a showmobile/of watercraft or snowmobile while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs, as defined in Title 12, section 7801, subsection 9, and section 7827, subsection 9, respectively, and offenses involving failing to aid an injured person or to report a hunting accident as defined in Title 12, section 7406, subsection 15; and
- Sec. 7. 15 MRSA §3301, sub-§7, as amended by PL 1985, c. 737, Pt. A, §38, is further amended to read:
- 7. Nonapplication of section. The provisions of this section do not apply to a juvenile charged with either of the juvenile crimes defined in section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph E or F, and a petition may be filed without recommendation by a juvenile caseworker. The provisions of section 3203-A apply in the case of a juvenile charged with either of the juvenile crime crimes defined in section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph E or F.
- Sec. 8. 15 MRSA §3314, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 679, §9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:
- 3. Disposition for violation of section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph E or F. When a juvenile has been adjudicated as having committed the juvenile crime under section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph E or F, the court may impose any of the dispositional alternatives contained in subsection 1. Any incarceration which is imposed may be part of a disposition pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph F or H. Any incarceration in a county jail shall be in a county jail designated by the Department of Corrections as a place for the secure detention of juveniles.
 - A. For an adjudication under section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph F, the juvenile's license or permit to operate a motor vehicle, right to operate a motor vehicle or right to apply for or obtain a license shall be suspended by the

2	court for a period of 180 days. The period of suspension shall not be suspended by the court. The court shall give
	notice of the suspension and take physical custody of an
4	operator's license or permit as provided in Title 29,
	section 2241-H. The court shall immediately transmit a
6	certified abstract of the suspension to the Secretary of
	State. A further suspension may be imposed by the Secretary
. 8	of State pursuant to Title 29, section 1312-D, subsection
7.0	<u>1-A.</u>
10	Sec. 9. Report. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and
12	Wildlife shall report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of
12	the law governing the operation of a watercraft while under the
14	influence by February 1, 1991.
16	Sec. 10. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated
	from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.
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	1989-90 1990-91
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22	MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF
22	DEFARIMENT OF
24	Bureau of Marine Patrol
	as the court of fraction and a court of
26	All Other \$2,000 \$3,000
28	Provides funds for
	anticipated breath test kits,
30	blood test kits and required
2.2	laboratory analyses.
32	Sec. 11. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from
34	Sec. 11. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from funds dedicated to the Department of Inland Fisheries and
34	Wildlife to carry out the purposes of this Act.
36	migative to carry out the purposes of this Acc.
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38	
	INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,
40	DEPARTMENT OF
42	Enforcement Operations -
44	Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
44	All Other \$5,550 \$6,750
46	All Other \$5,550 \$6,750
1 U	Provides funds for
48	anticipated breath test kits,
-	blood test kits and required
50	analyses. In addition, this
	allocation provides funds for

2	anticipated classroom costs and travel expenses
_	associated with the training
4	for the required breath-alcohol test.
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	Sec. 12. PL 1989, c. 539 is repealed.
8	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the
10	preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.
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14	STATEMENT OF FACT
16	The purpose of this bill is to repeal Public Law 1989, chapter 539 and reintroduce it so that OUI enforcement on Maine
18	waters can be implemented during the present recreational season.