

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

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Legislative Document

No. 524

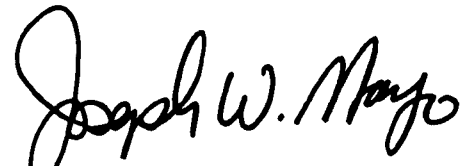
H.P. 389

House of Representatives, February 14, 1995

**An Act to Authorize Game Wardens to Enforce Prohibitions against  
Swimming in Navigable River Channels.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative KONTOS of Windham.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA c. 720** is enacted to read:

6 **CHAPTER 720**

8 **SWIMMING**

10 **§7891. Rules on restriction of swimming**

12 1. Rules. The commissioner shall promulgate rules  
14 restricting swimming in bodies of water determined by the  
16 commissioner to be hazardous. These rules must be adopted in  
18 accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act after  
20 public hearings in the areas affected.

22 2. Prohibitions. The commissioner shall prohibit swimming  
24 in areas such as channels, marinas and rivers that the  
26 commissioner determines are hazardous due to the volume of  
28 watercraft operating in the areas, or where swimming threatens  
public safety or adversely affects the natural environment.

24 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

26 This bill gives the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and  
28 Wildlife the ability to prohibit, through rulemaking, swimming in  
areas that the commissioner determines are hazardous. The  
prohibitions would be enforced by the Bureau of Warden Service.