

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1995

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Legislative Document

No. 1592

H.P. 1158

House of Representatives, November 29, 1995

**An Act to Implement the Productivity Plan of the Department of Marine Resources.**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reported by Representative KERR for the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs pursuant to Joint Order H.P. 1152.

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

4  
6           **Whereas,** this bill establishes the Aquarium and Resource  
Center at West Boothbay Harbor Fund; and

8           **Whereas,** it is essential that this fund be established  
immediately; and

10           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
12 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
14 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

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

18           **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6030** is enacted to read:

20           **§6030. Aquarium and Resource Center at West Boothbay Harbor**  
22           **Fund**

24           **1. Fund.** There is established the Aquarium and Resource  
Center at West Boothbay Harbor Fund, referred to in this section  
26 as the "fund." The department is authorized to set and receive  
fees to be deposited in the fund. The fund receives all funds  
28 collected by the department from the operation of the Aquarium  
and Resource Center at West Boothbay Harbor, including admission  
30 fees, the proceeds of sales at the Aquarium and Resource Center  
at West Boothbay Harbor and donations, grants or other funds  
32 presented to the department for the benefit of the Aquarium and  
Resource Center at West Boothbay Harbor and its educational  
34 programs. All money deposited in the fund and the earnings on  
the money remain in the fund to be used for the management and  
36 maintenance of the Aquarium and Resource Center at West Boothbay  
Harbor and its programs that educate the State's children,  
38 teachers and visitors about the State's marine resources.  
Unexpended balances in the fund at the end of the fiscal year do  
40 not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year to  
be used for the same purpose.

42           **2. Annual report.** By February 1st of each year the  
44 commissioner shall submit an annual report to the joint standing  
committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over fisheries  
46 matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs.  
48 The report must detail the amount of money collected in the fund  
over the course of the prior year and the expense of managing and  
50 maintaining the Aquarium and Resource Center at West Boothbay

2 Harbor and its programs. The commissioner shall make  
3 recommendations concerning how the fund may be increased or  
4 expenses reduced or both so that the Aquarium and Resource Center  
5 at West Boothbay Harbor and its programs become increasingly  
6 financially self-sustaining.

7 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
8 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

10  
11 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

12  
13 This bill establishes in statute the Aquarium and Resource  
14 Center at West Boothbay Harbor Fund. The Department of Marine  
15 Resources operates a small aquarium in conjunction with the  
16 marine resources research facility in West Boothbay Harbor. The  
17 aquarium is used in support of marine education programs for  
18 primary and secondary schools. The facility is also open to the  
19 general public during the summer and fall. This Part authorizes  
20 the department to charge a fee, the revenues of which will be  
21 placed in a fund dedicated to supporting the facility and  
22 programs offered there. The fee will be charged to the general  
23 public and not to schools.

24  
25 These changes are part of the Department of Marine Resources  
26 "productivity plan," as presented to the Productivity Realization  
Task Force.