

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1996

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Legislative Document

No. 1726

S.P. 666

In Senate, January 18, 1996

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study  
the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reported by Senator HALL of Piscataquis for the Task Force to Study the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Public Law 1995, chapter 455, section 44.

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 20.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS  
Secretary of the Senate

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

4           **Whereas,** these improvements in the operations of the  
6 Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife must take effect July  
1, 1996; 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 §7793, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 579,  
18 §§2 and 7, is amended to read:

20           **1. Register watercraft.** The commissioner shall annually  
register watercraft and issue certificates, licenses and permits  
22 as provided in this subchapter.

24           **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7794, sub-§4, ¶A,** as amended by PL 1985, c.  
579, §§4 and 7, is further amended to read:

26           A. All watercraft requiring or requesting certificate of  
28 number prior to July 1, 1996 ..... \$ 4

30           **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7794, sub-§4, ¶A-1** is enacted to read:

32           A-1. All watercraft requiring or requesting certificate of  
34 number on or after July 1, 1996 ..... \$ 12

36           **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §7794, sub-§9,** as amended by PL 1989, c. 493,  
§53, is further amended to read:

38           **9. Expiration.** Every A certificate of number awarded prior  
40 to July 1, 1996 under this subchapter continues in force until  
the last day of the 12th month after the month of issuance,  
42 ~~except that a.~~ A certificate of number awarded on or after July  
1, 1996 under this subchapter continues in force until December  
31st of the 2nd calendar year after the year of issuance. A  
44 dealer's certificate of number shall ~~expire~~ expires at midnight  
46 on December 31st of the calendar year for which the certificate  
was issued.

48           **Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §1503, sub-§8,** as amended by PL 1985, c. 726,  
§2, is further amended to read:

2           **8. Registration period.** "Registration For any boat  
3 registration issued prior to July 1, 1996, "registration period"  
4 means that period commencing upon the issuance of a certificate  
5 of number pursuant to Title 12, section 7794 and continuing until  
6 the last day of the 12th month after the month of issuance. For  
7 any boat registration issued on or after July 1, 1996,  
8 "registration period" means that period commencing upon the  
9 issuance of a certificate of number pursuant to Title 12, section  
10 7794 and continuing until December 31st of the 2nd calendar year  
11 after the year of issuance.

12           **Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §1503, sub-§9,** as amended by PL 1985, c. 726,  
13 §3, is further amended to read:

14           **9. Taxable year.** "Taxable year," for purposes of section  
15 1504, subsection 5, means from January 1st to December 31st for  
16 watercraft subject to the excise tax ~~but not required to be~~  
17 ~~registered under Title 12, section 7794. For watercraft required~~  
18 ~~to be registered under Title 12, section 7794, "taxable year"~~  
19 ~~means the 12-month period of registration.~~

20           **Sec. 7. Task force meeting.** The chair of the Task Force to  
21 Study the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and  
22 Wildlife shall call a meeting of the task force on any day  
23 between June 1, 1996 and June 30, 1996 to review the progress of  
24 the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in implementing  
25 the recommendations of the task force. Members of the task force  
26 who attend that meeting are entitled to per diem and  
27 reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the provisions of  
28 Public Law 1995, chapter 455, section 44.

29           **Sec. 8. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated  
30 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

31           **1996-97**

32  
33 **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,**  
34 **DEPARTMENT OF**

35  
36 **Public Information and Education -**  
37 **Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

38	Positions - Legislative Count	(1.0)
39	Personal Services	\$36,902
40	All Other	5,000

41  
42 Provides for the  
43 appropriation of funds for

2 one Public Relations  
3 Representative position to  
4 coordinate the volunteer  
services program.

6 **DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES  
AND WILDLIFE**  
8 **TOTAL**

\$41,902

10 **Sec. 9. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from  
11 Federal Expenditure Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

12  
13 **1996-97**

14 **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,  
15 DEPARTMENT OF**

18 **Office of the Commissioner -  
19 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

20 All Other \$150,000

22 Provides for the allocation  
23 of funds for conducting  
24 surveys of hunters, anglers  
25 and nonconsumptive wildlife  
26 users.

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

32 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

34 This bill includes the legislative recommendations of the  
35 Task Force to Study the Operations of the Department of Inland  
36 Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Public Law 1995, chapter 455,  
37 section 44.

40 The bill changes the period of boat registration from one  
41 year to 3 years for registrations and reregistrations issued on  
42 or after July 1, 1996. Registrations issued prior to July 1,  
43 1996 remain valid for one year. On July 1, 1996, the boat  
44 registration fee is increased from \$4 to \$12 to reflect the  
increased term of the registration.

46 The bill requires the task force to meet on any day between  
47 June 1, 1996 and June 30, 1996 to review the progress of the  
48 department in implementing the recommendations of the task force.

2           The bill creates a position within the department for a  
full-time coordinator of volunteers.

4

6           The bill also provides an allocation for the use of federal  
funds to conduct surveys of hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive  
users of the State's fish and wildlife resources.