# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

### FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 338

H.P. 274

House of Representatives, January 23, 1997

An Act Regarding the Funding of Search and Rescues by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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

✓OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Penobscot. Cosponsored by Senator: MICHAUD of Penobscot and

Senator HALL of Piscataquis and

Representatives: CROSS of Dover-Foxcroft, DUNLAP of Old Town, GIERINGER of

Portland, Senator: KIEFFER of Aroostook.

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

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- Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7035, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1991, c. 614, is further amended to read:
- 4. Search and rescue. Whenever the commissioner receives notification that any person has gone into the woodlands or onto the inland waters of the State on a hunting, fishing or other trip and has become lost, stranded or drowned, the commissioner shall exercise the authority to take reasonable steps to ensure the safe and timely recovery of that person; except in cases involving downed or lost aircraft covered by Title 6, section 303.
  - A. The commissioner may summon any person in the State to assist in those search and rescue attempts. Each person summoned shall must be paid at a rate set by the commissioner with the approval of the Governor and shall be provided with subsistence while engaged in these activities.
    - C. The commissioner may enter into written agreements with other agencies or corporations, including commercial recreational areas, allowing partial search and rescue responsibility within specified areas.
- D. The commissioner may terminate a search and rescue operation by members of his the department when, in his the commissioner's opinion, all reasonable efforts have been exhausted.
- Any person who has knowledge that another person is lost, stranded or drowned in the woodlands or inland waters of the 32 State shall notify the Warden Service Division of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
  - The expenses of the department in search and rescue efforts are paid from the General Fund. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife shall report out a bill during each regular session requesting General Fund money for the full cost of search and rescue.

### SUMMARY

This bill requires that search and rescue efforts conducted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife must be specifically budgeted for and paid by the General Fund.