

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MARINE RESOURCES  
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1082, L.D. 1519, Bill, "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Search and Rescue Capabilities"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Prevent Unnecessary Search and Rescue Operations on Marine Waters'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6958 is enacted to read:

§6958. False search and rescue information

A person who intentionally provides the department or causes to be given to the department false or misleading information that results in an unnecessary search and rescue effort or prolongs an ongoing search and rescue effort is subject to a civil penalty of up to the cost of providing the search and rescue service, payable to the State. This penalty is recoverable in a civil action. The State may also recover the cost of bringing the action, including a reasonable attorney's fee.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**FISCAL NOTE**

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

**SUMMARY**

This amendment strikes the bill. It creates a civil penalty for intentionally providing the Department of Marine Resources or causing to be given to the Department of Marine Resources false or misleading information that results in an unnecessary search and rescue effort or prolongs an ongoing search and rescue effort. The State may recover the costs of the search and rescue operation and reasonable attorney's fees.