

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1564

S.P. 502

In Senate, March 18, 1997

**An Act Allowing People with Disabilities to Use Open-face Fishing  
Rods in Fly-fishing Only Waters.**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLEVELAND of Androscoggin.

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

4           Whereas, the State's open-water fishing season opens on  
6 April 1st; and

8           Whereas, persons with certain types of physical disability  
are not able to fish using a fly rod; and

10           Whereas, those disabilities should not prevent those persons  
12 from enjoying the sport of fishing in waters otherwise reserved  
for fly-fishing only; and

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

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

22           **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7558** is enacted to read:

24           **§7558. Inability to fish with a fly rod due to physical**  
26           **disability**

28           A person possessing a valid fishing license whom the  
30           commissioner determines is not able to use a fly rod due to a  
32           physical disability is eligible to have a stamp affixed to that  
34           license at no cost authorizing that person to fish using a rod  
and reel with a single line, a bobber and a fly in waters open to  
fishing that are designated by the commissioner as fly-fishing  
only waters.

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

40           **SUMMARY**

42           This bill allows a person who is not able to use a fly rod  
due to a physical disability to fish in fly-fishing only waters  
44 using a rod and reel with a single line with a fly.