

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 530, L.D. 737, Bill, "An Act to Extend the Open Water Fishing Season"

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 §7552, sub-§5-A, ¶D, as amended by PL 1995, c. 406, §9, is further amended to read:

D. The commissioner by rule shall may extend the open-water fishing season through the month of November in lakes and ponds that are managed primarily for warm water sport fish in the following counties, Androscoggin, Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington and York as long as such an extension does not pose a threat to the fishery. Rules adopted under this paragraph may include provisions that establish catch-and-release-only restrictions on landlocked salmon, trout, togue and bass.

Sec. 2. Report. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on any rule-making activities undertaken or anticipated pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 7552, subsection 5-A, paragraph D. The report may be made orally or by letter, but must be made no later than February 15, 2000.'

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

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FISCAL NOTE

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The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will incur some minor additional costs to amend certain rules and to submit a required report to the Legislature. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

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This bill may reduce prosecutions for Class E crimes. If the number of jail sentences is reduced, the savings to the counties are estimated to be \$82.48 per day per prisoner. The amount of any reduction of jail time and the resulting savings to the county jail system are expected to be insignificant.

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The Judicial Department may realize some minor savings from reductions of workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of cases that will no longer be filed in the court system. Reductions in the collection of fines may decrease General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment broadens the authority of the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with respect to extending the open-water fishing season. The amendment also requires the commissioner to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by February 15, 2000 on any rule-making activities taken or anticipated under that new authority. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

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