

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAJORITY
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1627, L.D. 2274, Bill, "An Act to Clarify the Authority of Maine Game Wardens to Stop Motor Vehicles"

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7053, sub-§2, ¶D-2, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 317, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7053, sub-§2, ¶D-3 is enacted to read:

D-3. Stop a motor vehicle in accordance with Title 29-A, section 105 if the warden has a reasonable and articulable suspicion that a violation of any law of this State is taking place or has taken place or to protect public safety;

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7053, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read:

3. Same duties and powers as sheriffs. In addition to their specified duties and powers, wardens have the same duties and powers throughout the several counties of the State as sheriffs have in their respective counties, except that a game warden's primary responsibility lies in the enforcement of laws protecting fish and wildlife.

A. Wardens have the same rights as sheriffs to require aid in executing the duties of their offices.

2 B. Wardens are entitled to the same fees as sheriffs and
3 their deputies for like services, except before the District
4 Court. All the fees shall must be paid to the commissioner.'

6
8 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment clarifies that, while game wardens have the
11 same powers as sheriffs, including the authority to stop a motor
12 vehicle if there is a reasonable and articulable suspicion of a
13 violation of law or to protect public safety, game wardens'
14 primary responsibilities lie in the enforcement of laws
protecting fish and wildlife.