

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2581

H.P. 1843

House of Representatives, February 22, 2000

An Act to Prohibit the Importation of Milfoil into State Waters.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative THOMPSON of Naples.
Cosponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec and
Representatives: ETNIER of Harpswell, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator: BENOIT of
Franklin.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §419-C** is enacted to read:

6 **§419-C. Importation of Eurasian water milfoil prohibited**

8 A person may not transport Eurasian water milfoil to or from
10 any state surface waters. A person that violates this section
commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed
\$500 may be adjudged.

12 **Sec. 2. Post notification at public boat launches.** The Commissioner
14 of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Commissioner
of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, shall post the following notice
at public boat launches in the State:

16 "1. Transporting Eurasian water milfoil to or from any
18 state surface water is prohibited (38 M.R.S.A. §419-C).

20 2. If your boat or equipment has been exposed to any
22 Eurasian water milfoil infested water, the following steps should
be taken prior to putting your boat or equipment in any Maine
lake, pond or other water body:

24 A. Inspect for and scrape off from your boat's hull or
26 equipment or any exposed areas any visible water milfoil;

28 B. Carefully flush with clean water all boat hulls,
30 outdrive, live wells, bilge, trailers, anchors, ropes, bait
buckets, raw engine cabling systems and other boat parts or
equipment; and

32 C. Dry boats, trailers and equipment thoroughly in the sun."
34

36 **SUMMARY**

38 This bill prohibits the importation into state waters of
40 Eurasian water milfoil, a nonnative aquatic plant that is known
for its rapid growth and ability to alter a lake's natural
42 environment. The bill also requires that the Commissioner of
Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Commissioner of
44 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, post at public boat launches in
the State notice of the prohibition and the steps necessary to
remove milfoil from a boat.