

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 427

H.P. 337

House of Representatives, February 1, 2001

**An Act to Delegate the Authority to Regulate Personal Watercraft in
Unorganized Territories to County Commissioners.**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke.
Cosponsored by Representative CLARK of Millinocket.

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

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §685-C, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 739, §1, is amended to read:

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10. Operating a personal watercraft. Operating a personal watercraft is prohibited on the following categories of great ponds:

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10 A. Great ponds located entirely or partly within the jurisdiction of the commission that are identified in an official comprehensive land use plan adopted by the commission pursuant to subsection 1 as being not accessible within 1/4 mile by 2-wheel drive vehicles, with less than one development unit per mile, and at least one outstanding resource value;

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18 B. Great ponds located entirely or partly within the jurisdiction of the commission that are identified in an official comprehensive land use plan adopted by the commission as being accessible within 1/4 mile by 2-wheel drive vehicles, with less than one development unit per mile, with 2 or more outstanding resource values in fisheries, wildlife, scenic or shore character;

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26 C. Great ponds and smaller ponds located entirely or partly within the jurisdiction of the commission that are identified in an official comprehensive land use plan adopted by the commission as being not accessible within 1/2 mile by 2-wheel drive vehicles, with no more than one noncommercial remote camp and with a cold water game fishery; and

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34 D. Great ponds with less than all but more than 2/3 of their surface area in or partly in the jurisdiction of the commission that are identified as being of statewide significance in the "Maine Wildlands Lake Assessment" dated June 1, 1987 prepared by the commission, with 2 or more outstanding resource values in fisheries, wildlife, scenic or shore character and with more than 1/2 of their shoreline in public and private conservation ownership with guaranteed public access for low-impact public recreation.

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44 The commission shall implement this subsection by rule adopted in accordance with section 685-A. Rules adopted to implement this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

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Except as provided in paragraphs A to D, the authority to regulate personal watercraft in an unorganized or deorganized

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2 township resides with the county commissioners of the county in
3 which the township is located. For a plantation or an organized
4 municipality that was formerly an unorganized or deorganized
5 township, the authority to regulate personal watercraft resides
6 with the legislative body of that plantation or municipality.

7 This section does not apply to any waters subject to regulation
8 by the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission under Title 30,
9 section 6207, subsection 3-A.
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SUMMARY

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17 This bill gives the authority to regulate personal
18 watercraft to county commissioners in unorganized and deorganized
19 townships and to plantation and municipal legislative bodies in
20 municipalities that used to be unorganized or deorganized
townships.