

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAJORITY
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 581, L.D. 736, Bill, "An Act to Require State Approval Prior to Introducing Wolves into Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3.

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

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will incur some minor additional costs to approve any proposed reintroduction of the wolf species into the State. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

This bill may increase prosecutions for Class E crimes. If a jail sentence is imposed, the additional costs to the counties are estimated to be \$83.36 per day per prisoner. The number of prosecutions that may result in a jail sentence and the resulting costs to the county jail system are expected to be insignificant.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

SUMMARY

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This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes that portion of the bill that directed the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to work with the Federal Government to ensure that any gray wolf recovery plan allows the State to prohibit the introduction of the gray wolf within its borders. The amendment retains that portion of the bill that prohibits the release of wolves in Maine without prior approval of the Legislature and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.