

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 736

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H.P. 581

House of Representatives, February 13, 2001

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**An Act to Require State Approval Prior to Introducing Wolves into Maine.**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town.  
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and  
Representatives: BRYANT of Dixfield, MICHAUD of Fort Kent, MUSE of Fryeburg,  
PARADIS of Frenchville, PERKINS of Penobscot, SAVAGE of Buxton, TRAHAN of  
Waldoboro, WHEELER of Eliot.

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

2           **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7001, sub-§45** is enacted to read:

4           45. Wolf. "Wolf" means the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus).

6           **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7760** is enacted to read:

8           §7760. Introduction of wolves to State; approval required

10           A person may not release a wolf in the State for the purpose  
12 of reintroducing that species into the State without the prior  
14 approval of both Houses of the Legislature and the commissioner.

16           **Sec. 3. State role in federal wolf recovery planning.** The  
18 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall work with the  
20 United States Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any  
22 recovery plan for the gray wolf in any geographic area that  
24 includes the State includes a provision that allows the State to  
26 prohibit the introduction of the gray wolf within the borders of  
28 the State.

#### SUMMARY

30           This bill prohibits the release of wolves in the State  
32 without the prior approval of both Houses of the Legislature and  
the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The bill also  
directs the commissioner to work with the United States Fish and  
Wildlife Service to ensure that any recovery plan for the gray  
wolf in an area that includes the State includes a provision that  
allows the State to prohibit the introduction of the gray wolf  
within the borders of the State.