

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5-7-01

(Filing No. H-349)

**MINORITY
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. 625, L.D. 825, Bill, "An Act to Require Free Access to Waters Stocked by the State"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Ensure that Public Access is Provided for All Waters Stocked with Fish by the State'

Further 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 §7605-A is enacted to read:

§7605-A. Public access to waters stocked by the State

The department may only stock with fish or fish eggs waters that the public has free access to or access to for a reasonable fee. The department shall evaluate on an annual basis all fees charged to the public for access to stocked waters and determine whether those fees are reasonable. By January 1st of each year, the department shall provide to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over fisheries and wildlife matters a report showing all stocked waters and describing the access provided to those waters, including any fees charged for access to those waters.'

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

FISCAL NOTE

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4 The prohibition on the introduction of fish or fish eggs in
6 certain locations may result in insignificant reductions of
General Fund revenue from a decrease in the sale of fishing
licenses by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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10 The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will incur
some minor additional costs to submit a required annual report to
the Legislature. These costs can be absorbed within the
department's existing budgeted resources.'

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SUMMARY

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18 This amendment is part of the minority report and prohibits
the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from stocking
with fish or fish eggs waters that the public does not have free
access to or access to for a reasonable fee. The amendment also
20 requires that the department report annually to the joint
standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
22 fisheries and wildlife matters regarding access to state-stocked
waters and any fees being charged for access to those waters.
24 The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.