

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1192

H.P. 900

House of Representatives, February 28, 2001

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**An Act to Establish a Permanent Interagency Task Force on Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive and Exotic Species.**

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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 SAVAGE of Buxton.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BULL of Freeport, DUNLAP of Old Town, LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach, McGLOCKLIN of Embden, USHER of Westbrook.

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

2           **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-L, sub-§13** is enacted to read:

4                   13. Interagency Expenses 12 MRSA  
6           Task Force on Aquatic Only for §7780-A  
8           and Terrestrial Invasive Members  
                  and Exotic Species Appointed by  
                                  the Governor

10           **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA c. 713, sub-c. VIII** is enacted to read:

12                                   SUBCHAPTER VIII

14                                   INVASIVE AND EXOTIC SPECIES

16           §7780-A. Interagency Task Force on Aquatic and Terrestrial  
18           Invasive and Exotic Species

20           The Interagency Task Force on Aquatic and Terrestrial  
22           Invasive and Exotic Species, as established by Title 5, section  
24           12004-L, subsection 13 and referred to in this subchapter as the  
26           "task force;" is responsible for coordinating state agencies'  
                  research, education and regulatory activities related to aquatic  
                  and terrestrial invasive and exotic species.

28           1. Membership. The task force consists of 21 members as  
                  follows.

30           A. Seven members represent state agencies:

32                   (1) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee;

34                   (2) The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural  
36                   Resources or the commissioner's designee;

38                   (3) The Commissioner of Transportation or the  
                  commissioner's designee;

40                   (4) The Chancellor of the University of Maine System  
42                   or the commissioner's designee representing county  
                  extension associations; and

44                   (5) Three members from the Department of  
46                   Conservation: one representative each from the Bureau  
48                   of Parks and Lands, the Maine Forest Service and the  
                  Maine Natural Areas Program appointed by the  
                  Commissioner of Conservation.

50           B. Five members represent federal agencies and are selected  
52           by the respective agencies:

- 2           (1) One representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
- 4           (2) One representative of the National Park Service assigned to Acadia National Park;
- 6           (3) One representative of the United States Department of Agriculture;
- 8           (4) One representative of the United States Forest Service; and
- 10           (5) One representative of the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the United States Department of Agriculture.

16           C. Nine members represent the public and are appointed by the Governor;

- 18           (1) One representative of commercial tree and garden nurseries;
- 20           (2) One representative of home gardeners;
- 22           (3) One representative of municipal government;
- 24           (4) One representative of a statewide sportsperson's association;
- 26           (5) One representative of a statewide outdoor recreation group; and
- 28           (6) Four public members who have demonstrated experience or interest in the area of fish and wildlife threats posed by aquatic and terrestrial invasive or exotic species.

30           2. Terms; chair. Members representing state and federal agencies serve ex officio until replaced. Members appointed by the Governor serve 4-year terms, except that, of the initial appointments, 4 must be for 3 years, including 2 of the public members, and 4 must be for 4 years, including the other 2 public members. Members serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. A vacancy must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. The position of chair must rotate annually among the state agency members.

32           3. Duties. The task force shall:

- 34           A. Coordinate enforcement of importation and transportation of invasive and exotic species controls;

- 2           B. Develop a monitoring and educational program;
- 4           C. Develop a comprehensive policy on fish stocking and  
6           introduction of nonnative plant species;
- 8           D. Provide for a statewide inventory of aquatic and  
10           terrestrial invasive and exotic species;
- 12           E. Encourage the cooperation of state, provincial, federal  
14           and nongovernmental agencies in the area of invasive and  
16           exotic species control; and
- 18           F. Determine and make recommendations to the Legislature  
20           whether a regulatory program is necessary to control the  
              introduction of invasive and exotic species in the State.
- 22           4. Staff. The department shall provide staff support.  
24           Other state agencies and the University of Maine System shall  
26           also provide assistance when requested.

## SUMMARY

24           This bill establishes a permanent Interagency Task Force on  
26           Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive and Exotic Species.