

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 217

H.P. 176

House of Representatives, January 21, 2003

### **An Act Concerning Public Access to Fish, Game and Wildlife Resources**

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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 Representative: PINEAU of Jay, Senator: STANLEY of Penobscot.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7656** is enacted to read:

6 **§7656. Establishing public access corridors for purpose of fishing, hunting or trapping**

8 The commissioner may purchase land or interests in land or  
10 may grant conservation easements over land in order to establish  
12 public access corridors to lands or waters for the purpose of  
14 fishing, hunting or trapping. The commissioner shall consult  
with the Land for Maine's Future Board and the Director of the  
Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation  
on actions taken under this subchapter.

16 A corridor established under this section must be surveyed  
18 and described so that it can be located, and a plan of the land  
20 or rights must be filed and recorded in the registry of deeds in  
22 the county or counties in which the corridor is located. The  
filing of the plan and description vests the title to the land or  
right in the land to the State or its grantees. The title or  
right is to be held at the pleasure of the State.

24 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries  
28 and Wildlife to purchase land or interests in land or to grant  
30 conservation easements over land in order to establish public  
32 access corridors to lands or waters for the purpose of fishing,  
34 hunting or trapping. The bill requires the commissioner to  
consult with the Land for Maine's Future Board and the Director  
of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of  
Conservation on any actions taken to establish such corridors.

36 The bill also requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries  
38 and Wildlife to survey and describe the corridor and to file a  
40 plan of that corridor with the registry of deeds in the county or  
42 counties in which the corridor is located in the same way  
required by law when the commissioner acquires land to establish  
wildlife management areas under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
12, section 7652, subsection 1.