

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 565

H.P. 420

House of Representatives, February 3, 2005

### An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Fishing Derbies

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLCENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PIOTTI of Unity.  
Cosponsored by Senator WESTON of Waldo and  
Representative: WATSON of Bath, Senator: BRYANT of Oxford.

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12504, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

**3. Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt all necessary rules relative to permits to ensure that derbies and tournaments are conducted only at such times and places and in such a manner as are consistent with the fisheries management objectives of the department. For the purposes of this subsection, "educational institution" means an accredited postsecondary educational institution incorporated, chartered or established under the laws of the State. Such rules must include:

A. Specifying the number of derbies or tournaments that may be conducted in a given body of water and the dates within which they may be conducted. These rules must be reviewed periodically; and

B. Fixing the maximum total value of prizes that may be awarded at each derby or tournament, except for a derby held by an educational institution that conforms to the rules adopted pursuant to paragraphs C, D, E, F and G;

C. Requiring that at least 80% of the prizes awarded at a derby held by an educational institution be in the form of scholarships;

D. Prohibiting the use of a motorboat in a derby held by an educational institution;

E. Prohibiting the targeting of cold-water species in a derby held by an educational institution;

F. Requiring that a derby held by an educational institution be an event that is only catch and release or catch, measure and release; and

G. Restricting fishing equipment to one rod per person with a 2-rod limit per boat and to the use of artificial lures only in a derby held by an educational institution.

**SUMMARY**

This bill exempts accredited postsecondary educational institutions that hold fishing derbies from the prize limits set by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for derbies if the derby event meets the following requirements:

- 2           1. Participants may not fish from motorboats;
- 4           2. Participants may only use artificial lures;
- 6           3. The derby must be an event that is only catch and  
release or catch, measure and release;
- 8           4. Participants may target only warm-water species;
- 10          5. There is a limit of one rod per person and a maximum of  
2 rods per boat; and
- 12          6. At least 80% of the prizes awarded are in the form of  
14 scholarships.