

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 714

H.P. 497

House of Representatives, February 24, 2009

### **An Act To Empower Anglers in Fish Stocking Decisions**

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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 PRATT of Eddington.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, DUCHESNE of Hudson, GIFFORD of Lincoln, PIOTTI of Unity, SAVIELLO of Wilton.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12758-A is enacted to read:**

3 **§12758-A. Fish stocking**

4 **1. Public notification.** When the Bureau of Resource Management determines that  
5 there is a need to consider changing the fish stocking policies on a water or group of  
6 waters that supports a major fishery or major fisheries, the department shall provide  
7 notification regarding the proposed change. Notification of the proposed change must be  
8 published on the department's publicly accessible website and in the department's weekly  
9 fishing updates and the department's e-mail relating to fisheries. The department shall  
10 also notify local and state sportsman's associations.

11 **2. Public hearing.** Before proceeding with the proposed changes under subsection  
12 1, the department shall hold a public hearing, if a sufficient number of requests are  
13 received, to review the fish stocking policies presented by the proposals as well as the  
14 information used to assess the opportunities and to receive public comments concerning  
15 the proposals.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to publish  
18 notification of any fish stocking and to hold a hearing if the department receives a  
19 sufficient number of requests for a hearing.