

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 308

H.P. 250

House of Representatives, February 3, 2011

An Act Regarding the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative McKANE of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Senator SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CHIPMAN of Portland, OLSEN of Phippsburg, PRESCOTT of Topsham,
TILTON of Harrington, Senator: TRAHAN of Lincoln.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** for the efficient management of the saltwater recreational fishery this
4 legislation must take effect before the spring fishing season begins; and

5 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
6 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
7 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
8 therefore,

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

10 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6032,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2009, c. 559, §1 and
11 affected by §4, is repealed.

12 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6312,** as enacted by PL 2009, c. 559, §2 and affected by §4, is
13 repealed.

14 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6313** is enacted to read:

15 **§6313. Voluntary saltwater recreational fishing registry**

16 **1. Voluntary saltwater recreational fishing registry established.** The
17 commissioner shall work with the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to
18 establish, administer and maintain a voluntary annual registry of persons who engage in
19 saltwater recreational fishing. A person may register with the department through an
20 online licensing system of the department or maintained by the department or by
21 checking a box on that person's freshwater fishing license or watercraft registration issued
22 under Part 13 at the time of purchase to indicate that that person plans to engage in
23 saltwater recreational fishing for the period covered by the freshwater fishing license.

24 **2. Mail-in registration.** The department and the Department of Inland Fisheries and
25 Wildlife may distribute postage-paid postcards to anglers through direct contact or
26 through appropriate entities that allow an angler to register on the registry under
27 subsection 1 by returning the postcard to the department. The commissioner shall
28 determine the content of the postcard and the information to be provided by the angler.

29 **3. Voluntary registration; no fees.** The department may not establish or levy a fee
30 for registering on the registry pursuant to subsection 1 or 2.

31 **4. Administration; funding.** The commissioner and the Commissioner of Inland
32 Fisheries and Wildlife shall administer the provisions of this section within the existing
33 resources of the department and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The
34 commissioner and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall work with the
35 State's congressional delegation to seek federal funding for purposes of this section. The
36 commissioner and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may not expand
37 activities under this subsection beyond existing department resources unless federal
38 funding is secured to cover the cost of those activities.

