

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 730

S.P. 268

In Senate, February 28, 2013

### An Act To Protect Maine's Loons by Banning Lead Sinkers and Jigs

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HASKELL of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative SHAW of Standish and  
Senators: CLEVELAND of Androscoggin, JACKSON of Aroostook, Representatives: BLACK  
of Wilton, CRAFTS of Lisbon, DAVIS of Sangerville, ESPLING of New Gloucester, JONES  
of Freedom, WOOD of Sabattus.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12663-A**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §288 and  
3 affected by §422, is amended to read:

4 **§12663-A. Unlawful sale of lead sinkers and jigs**

5 **1. Sale of lead sinker or jig.** A person may not sell a lead sinker or jig for fishing  
6 that contains any lead and weighs ~~1/2~~ one ounce or less or measures 2 1/2 inches or less  
7 in length.

8 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine  
9 of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

10 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
11 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
12 commits a Class E crime.

13 **2. Offer lead sinker or jig for sale.** A person may not offer for sale a lead sinker or  
14 jig for fishing that contains any lead and weighs ~~1/2~~ one ounce or less or measures 2 1/2  
15 inches or less in length.

16 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine  
17 of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

18 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
19 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
20 commits a Class E crime.

21 **3. Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, "sinker" means a device that is  
22 designed to be attached to a fishing line and intended to sink the line. "Sinker" does not  
23 include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig heads. For the purposes of this  
24 section, "jig" means a weighted hook and does not include lead fishing-related items,  
25 including but not limited to fishing line, flies, lures or spoons.

26 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12664** is enacted to read:

27 **§12664. Unlawful use of lead sinkers and jigs**

28 **1. Unlawful use.** A person may not use a lead sinker or jig for fishing that contains  
29 any lead and weighs one ounce or less or measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

30 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine  
31 of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

32 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
33 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
34 commits a Class E crime.

35 **2. Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, "sinker" means a device that is  
36 designed to be attached to a fishing line and intended to sink the line. "Sinker" does not  
37 include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig heads. For the purposes of this

1 section, "jig" means a weighted hook and does not include lead fishing-related items,  
2 including but not limited to fishing line, flies, lures or spoons.

3

### **SUMMARY**

4 This bill makes it illegal to sell or use lead sinkers and jigs weighing one ounce or  
5 less and measuring 2 1/2 inches or less in length.