

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 604

H.P. 420

House of Representatives, February 16, 2017

An Act To Protect Maine's Lakes by Prohibiting the Discharge of Waste from Watercraft

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CEBRA of Naples.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FAY of Raymond, GINZLER of Bridgton, ORDWAY of Standish, Senator: DIAMOND of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §423, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

3 **5. Penalties.** Notwithstanding section 349, a person, firm, corporation or other legal
4 entity that intentionally or knowingly violates subsection 1 commits a Class C crime.

5 **Sec. 2. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to provide notice at**
6 **state boat launch facilities of penalties for violation of law prohibiting**
7 **discharge of waste from watercraft.** By July 1, 2018, the Department of Inland
8 Fisheries and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection,
9 shall ensure that signs describing the prohibition against the discharge of waste from
10 watercraft under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 423, including the
11 increased penalties for an intentional or knowing violation of that prohibition, are
12 installed at all state boat launch facilities on fresh waters and may provide these signs, as
13 available funds allow, for installation at other boat launch facilities, including municipal
14 boat launch facilities, campground boat launch facilities and other commonly used boat
15 launch sites.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill enhances the penalty for an intentional or knowing violation of the law
18 prohibiting the discharge of waste from watercraft into the inland waters of the State from
19 a Class E crime to a Class C crime. The bill directs the Department of Inland Fisheries
20 and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, by July 1,
21 2018, to ensure that signs describing this prohibition against the discharge of waste from
22 watercraft, including the increased penalties for an intentional or knowing violation of the
23 prohibition, are installed at all state boat launch facilities.