

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 1012

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H.P. 750

House of Representatives, March 10, 2021

### **An Act To Fund Wildlife Rehabilitators**

(EMERGENCY)

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FAY of Raymond.

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,** the work of wildlife rehabilitators requires funding; and

4           **Whereas,** the next deadline for Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant applicants to start  
5 the grant application process is July 15, 2021, which is before the expiration of the 90-day  
6 period; and

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

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

12           **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10307, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and  
13 affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

14           **1. Fisheries and wildlife; habitat conservation.** ~~Thirty-five~~ Thirty percent of the  
15 money in the fund for fisheries and wildlife and habitat conservation projects;

16           **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10307, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and  
17 affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

18           **3. Endangered and threatened species.** ~~Fifteen~~ Ten percent of the money in the fund  
19 for endangered and threatened species conservation projects; ~~and~~

20           **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10307, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and  
21 affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

22           **4. Natural resources law enforcement.** Fifteen percent of the money in the fund for  
23 natural resources law enforcement; and

24           **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §10307, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

25           **5. Wildlife rehabilitation.** Ten percent of the money in the fund for wildlife  
26 rehabilitation projects.

27           **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §10309, sub-§3, ¶F,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2  
28 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

29           F. Available matching funds; ~~and~~

30           **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §10309, sub-§4, ¶E,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2  
31 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

32           E. Available matching funds; and

33           **Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §10309, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

34           **5. Wildlife rehabilitation.** For the category of wildlife rehabilitation:

35           A. A species or species group under subsection 1;

36           B. A species or species group under subsection 3;

37           C. Fish or wildlife of statewide or regional significance;

1 D. Education for the public concerning native wildlife; and

2 E. Available matching funds.

3 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation  
4 takes effect when approved.

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This bill creates a new project category for natural resources agencies that are applying  
7 for a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. The new category is wildlife  
8 rehabilitation and includes criteria for the board to take into account when considering and  
9 awarding grants to projects under that category. The new category represents 10% of  
10 available annual grant money, reallocating funding from 2 other existing categories.