

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 958

H.P. 605

House of Representatives, March 2, 2023

**An Act to Expand Protections to Maine's Loons from Lead
Poisoning by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead
Jigs**

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and
Representatives: DILL of Old Town, DOUDERA of Camden, FAY of Raymond, LANDRY of
Farmington, MASON of Lisbon, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: BLACK of Franklin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12663-B**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 372, §2, is amended to read:

3 **§12663-B. Unlawful sale of lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Bare lead jig" means an unpainted lead jig that contains lead and that:

7 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

8 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

9 B. "Lead sinker" means a device that contains lead that is designed to be attached to a
10 fishing line and intended to sink the line and that:

11 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

12 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

13 "Lead sinker" does not include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig
14 heads.

15 C. "Painted lead jig" means a painted lead jig that contains lead and that:

16 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

17 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

18 **2. Sale of lead sinker ~~or~~, bare lead jig or painted lead jig.** This subsection governs
19 the sale of lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs.

20 A. A person may not:

21 (1) Sell a lead sinker; ~~or~~

22 (2) Beginning September 1, 2016, sell a bare lead jig; ~~or~~

23 (3) Beginning September 1, 2024, sell a painted lead jig.

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

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

29 **3. Offer lead sinker ~~or~~, bare lead jig or painted lead jig for sale.** This subsection
30 governs offering lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs for sale.

31 A. A person may not:

32 (1) Offer for sale a lead sinker; ~~or~~

33 (2) Beginning September 1, 2016, offer for sale a bare lead jig; ~~or~~

34 (3) Beginning September 1, 2024, offer for sale a painted lead jig.

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

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

4 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12664**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 372, §3, is amended to read:

5 **§12664. Unlawful use of lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs**

6 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
7 following terms have the following meanings.

8 A. "Bare lead jig" means an unpainted lead jig that contains lead and that:

9 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

10 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

11 B. "Lead sinker" means a device that contains lead that is designed to be attached to a
12 fishing line and intended to sink the line and that:

13 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

14 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

15 "Lead sinker" does not include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig
16 heads.

17 C. "Painted lead jig" means a painted lead jig that contains lead and that:

18 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

19 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

20 **2. Unlawful use.** This subsection governs the use of lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs
21 and painted lead jigs.

22 A. A person may not:

23 (1) Use a lead sinker; ~~or~~

24 (2) Beginning September 1, 2017, use a bare lead jig; ~~or~~

25 (3) Beginning September 1, 2026, use a painted lead jig.

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

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

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill makes it illegal to sell or offer for sale painted lead jigs weighing one ounce
33 or less or measuring 2 1/2 inches or less in length beginning September 1, 2024 and illegal
34 to use them beginning September 1, 2026.