

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1534

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H.P. 989

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

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**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Interagency Task  
Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species**

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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 "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.  
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, NEWMAN of Belgrade.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§3, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 264, §1, is  
3 further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

4 Prior to January 1, 2020, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs  
5 A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include a \$10 fee  
6 for invasive species prevention and control. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fees  
7 outlined in section 13056, subsection 8, paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating  
8 on inland waters of the State each include a \$15 fee for invasive species prevention and  
9 control. Beginning January 1, 2024, the fees outlined in section 13056, subsection 8,  
10 paragraphs A and B for watercraft operating on inland waters of the State each include  
11 a \$25 fee for invasive species prevention and control. This fee is disposed of as  
12 follows:

13 (1) Eighty percent must be credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance  
14 Species Fund; and

15 (2) Twenty percent must be credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund  
16 established within the department under section 10257.

17 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§8, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 264, §3, is  
18 further amended to read:

19 A. For a watercraft requiring or whose owner requests a certificate of number and that  
20 is equipped with a motor having a manufacturer's horsepower rating of:

21 (1) Ten horsepower or less, prior to January 1, 2020 the fee is \$25 for operating  
22 on inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State.  
23 Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee under this subparagraph is \$30 for operating on  
24 inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State.  
25 Beginning January 1, 2024, the fee under this subparagraph is \$40 for operating on  
26 inland waters of the State and \$15 for operating only on tidal waters of the State;

27 (2) Greater than 10 horsepower but not more than 50 horsepower, prior to January  
28 1, 2020 the fee is \$30 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$20 for  
29 operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee  
30 under this subparagraph is \$35 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$20  
31 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2024, the fee  
32 under this subparagraph is \$45 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$20  
33 for operating only on tidal waters of the State; and

34 (3) Greater than 50 horsepower but not more than 115 horsepower, prior to January  
35 1, 2020 the fee is \$36 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$26 for  
36 operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee  
37 under this subparagraph is \$41 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$26  
38 for operating only on tidal waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2024, the fee  
39 under this subparagraph is \$51 for operating on inland waters of the State and \$26  
40 for operating only on tidal waters of the State.

41 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§8, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 264, §4, is  
42 further amended to read:

1 B. Prior to January 1, 2020, for a personal watercraft requiring or whose owner  
2 requests a certificate of number and watercraft equipped with a motor having a  
3 manufacturer's horsepower rating of 115 horsepower or greater, the fee is \$44 for  
4 operating on inland waters of the State and \$34 for operating only on tidal waters of  
5 the State. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee under this paragraph is \$49 for operating  
6 on inland waters of the State and \$34 for operating only on tidal waters of the State.  
7 Beginning January 1, 2024, the fee under this paragraph is \$59 for operating on inland  
8 waters of the State and \$34 for operating only on tidal waters of the State.

9 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §13058, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 264, §5, is further  
10 amended to read:

11 **3. Nonresident motorboat and personal watercraft lake and river protection**  
12 **sticker and resident and nonresident seaplane lake and river protection sticker; fee.**  
13 No later than January 1st of each year, the commissioner shall provide the agents authorized  
14 to register watercraft or issue licenses with a sufficient quantity of lake and river protection  
15 stickers for motorboats and personal watercraft not registered in the State and for all  
16 seaplanes, whether or not registered in the State, for that boating season. The sticker must  
17 be in 2 parts so that one part of the sticker can be affixed to each side of the bow of a  
18 motorboat or personal watercraft or to each outside edge of a seaplane's pontoons. Prior to  
19 January 1, 2020, the fee for a sticker issued under this subsection is \$20, \$1 of which is  
20 retained by the agent who sold the sticker. Beginning January 1, 2020, the fee for a sticker  
21 issued under this subsection is \$35, \$1 of which is retained by the agent who sold the  
22 sticker. Beginning January 1, 2022, the fee for a sticker issued under this subsection is  
23 \$45, \$1 of which is retained by the agent who sold the sticker. Beginning January 1, 2024,  
24 the fee for a sticker issued under this section is \$55, \$1 of which is retained by the agent  
25 who sold the sticker.

26 The remainder of the fee is disposed as follows:

27 A. Eighty percent must be credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species  
28 Fund; and

29 B. Twenty percent must be credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund established  
30 within the department under section 10257.

31 A motorboat, personal watercraft or seaplane owned by the Federal Government, a state  
32 government or a municipality is exempt from the fee established in this subsection.

33 **Sec. 5. Review of 2006 Rapid Response Plan.** The Interagency Task Force on  
34 Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species, established by the Maine Revised Statutes,  
35 Title 5, section 12004-D, subsection 6, shall review the Department of Environmental  
36 Protection 2006 Rapid Response Plan For Invasive Aquatic Plants, Fish, and Other Fauna  
37 to further expedite the process for controlling invasive aquatic plant infestations, which  
38 may include ways to improve the surface use restriction process, identifying situations in  
39 which requiring inspections of boats launched and removed are advisable and a  
40 requirement to submit to an inspection by a trained inspector when launching or taking a  
41 boat out of an infested or at-risk lake. The task force shall, no later than December 6, 2023,  
42 submit a report regarding its review, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint  
43 Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The joint standing  
44 committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

1 **SUMMARY**

2 This bill increases the fees for original or renewal certificates of number with 2  
3 validation stickers that are required for all resident motorboats and personal watercraft, and  
4 the fees for lake and river protection stickers for all motorboats and personal watercraft not  
5 registered in the State and seaplanes, operating on inland waters of the State. Beginning  
6 January 1, 2024, the fees are increased by \$10.

7 It also directs the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance  
8 Species to review the Department of Environmental Protection 2006 Rapid Response Plan  
9 For Invasive Aquatic Plants, Fish, and Other Fauna to further expedite the process for  
10 controlling invasive aquatic plant infestations, which may include ways to improve the  
11 surface use restriction process, identifying situations in which requiring inspections of  
12 boats launched and removed are advisable and a requirement to submit to an inspection by  
13 a trained inspector when launching or taking a boat out of an infested or at-risk lake. The  
14 task force is directed to submit, no later than December 6, 2023, a report regarding its  
15 review, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on  
16 Environment and Natural Resources. The joint standing committee is authorized to report  
17 out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.