

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2236

H.P. 1512

House of Representatives, March 17, 2026

An Act Regarding Public Records Maintained by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Reported by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick for the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 37, section 6.

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10110**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 185, §1, is repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10111** is enacted to read:

4 **§10111. Records and databases related to licenses, permits, registrations, harvest**
5 **records and applications**

6 **1. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,
7 the following terms have the following meanings.

8 A. "Commercial record" means any record the department holds that is intended for
9 business operations or that allows a person or entity to charge a fee for a product or
10 service.

11 B. "Data" means information existing in an electronic medium and contained in a
12 records database.

13 C. "Noncommercial record" means any paper or electronic record the department
14 holds, including, but not limited to, a license, permit, registration, harvest record and
15 any application for these records, that is not intended for business operations and that
16 does not allow a person or entity to charge a fee for a product or service.

17 D. "Personally identifiable information" means:

18 (1) A person's name;

19 (2) A person's social security number;

20 (3) A person's telephone number;

21 (4) A person's e-mail address;

22 (5) A person's physical address;

23 (6) A person's identification number in the department's online electronic system
24 for people who hunt, fish or trap;

25 (7) A person's date of birth;

26 (8) A person's driver's license number;

27 (9) A person's taxpayer identification number;

28 (10) Information contained in any free text data field; and

29 (11) Any other information contained in a data field that may be used to identify
30 a person.

31 With respect to a commercial record, "personally identifiable information" does not
32 include a person's telephone number, e-mail address or physical address.

33 **2. Individual records requests; confidentiality of personally identifiable**
34 **information in records.** Any personally identifiable information included in any
35 commercial or noncommercial record, whether contained in a records database or in
36 individual or multiple records, is confidential, except that the department may disclose
37 personally identifiable information:

- 1 A. For law enforcement purposes in accordance with section 13106-E and Title 16,
2 section 805-A;
- 3 B. For the purposes described in section 13106-E, subsection 2 or section 13157-D,
4 subsection 2;
- 5 C. For fish and wildlife management purposes;
- 6 D. To other state and federal government entities; or
- 7 E. To the person who is the subject of the record or to that person's agent.

8 **3. Disclosure of data not personally identifiable.** The department may publicly
9 disseminate data that is not personally identifiable information that is contained in a
10 database and may provide to persons, businesses and other entities copies of individual
11 records and whole or partial databases of records that do not contain personally identifiable
12 information.

13 **4. Reasonable fees.** The department may charge reasonable fees for both individual
14 record requests and database requests at the expense of the person making the request. The
15 cost of furnishing a copy of the record is not subject to the limitations of Title 1, section
16 408-A.

17 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §13106-E** is enacted to read:

18 **§13106-E. Snowmobile accident report data**

19 **1. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,
20 the following terms have the following meanings.

21 A. "Data" means information existing in an electronic medium and contained in an
22 accident report database.

23 B. "Nonpersonally identifiable accident report data" means any data in an accident
24 report that are not personally identifiable accident report data.

25 C. "Personally identifiable accident report data" means:

26 (1) A person's name, residential and post office box mailing address, social
27 security number, date of birth and driver's license number;

28 (2) A snowmobile registration number;

29 (3) An insurance policy number;

30 (4) Information contained in any free text data field of an accident report; and

31 (5) Any other information contained in a data field of an accident report that may
32 be used to identify a person.

33 **2. Accident report information.** An accident report made by a law enforcement
34 officer or a report made by an operator as required by section 13106-B or 13106-C is for
35 the purposes of statistical analysis and accident prevention. A report or statement contained
36 in the accident report, or a report as required by section 13106-C, subsection 1, or a decision
37 made as a result of that report or statement contained in the accident report or report
38 required by section 13106-C, subsection 1 is confidential and may not be admitted as
39 evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of the accident. Such a report may be
40 admissible as evidence solely to prove compliance with this section.

1 Notwithstanding this section or section 13106-C, the Game Warden Colonel may disclose
2 the date, time and location of the accident reported under section 13106-B or 13106-C; the
3 names and addresses of operators, owners and injured persons; the names and addresses of
4 witnesses; and the name and address of the investigating officer. On written request, the
5 Game Warden Colonel may furnish a photocopy of the investigating officer's report at the
6 expense of the person making the request.

7 **3. Accident report database; public dissemination of accident report data.** Data
8 maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service must be
9 treated as follows.

10 A. Except as provided in paragraph B, personally identifiable accident report data
11 maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service is
12 confidential.

13 B. The Bureau of Warden Service may disseminate a snowmobile registration number
14 contained in an accident report database maintained, administered or contributed to by
15 the Bureau of Warden Service to a person only if that person provides the Bureau of
16 Warden Service an affidavit stating that the person will not:

17 (1) Use the snowmobile registration number to identify or contact a person; or

18 (2) Disseminate the snowmobile registration number to another person.

19 C. The Bureau of Warden Service may publicly disseminate nonpersonally identifiable
20 accident report data maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of
21 Warden Service.

22 **4. Reasonable fees.** The Bureau of Warden Service may charge reasonable fees for
23 snowmobile accident report data. The cost of furnishing a copy of the report is not subject
24 to the limitations of Title 1, section 408-A.

25 **5. Violation.** A person commits a Class E crime if that person:

26 A. Is required to make a report pursuant to section 13106-B or 13106-C and knowingly
27 fails to do so within the time required;

28 B. Is an operator involved in a reportable snowmobile accident and knowingly fails to
29 give a correct name and address when requested by a law enforcement officer at the
30 scene;

31 C. Is the operator involved in a reportable snowmobile accident under this section or
32 is the owner of a snowmobile involved in a reportable accident and knowingly fails to
33 produce the snowmobile or, if the snowmobile is operational, return it to the scene
34 when requested by the investigating officer; or

35 D. Obtains a snowmobile registration number pursuant to section 13104 and
36 knowingly uses that snowmobile registration number to identify or contact a person or
37 knowingly disseminates that snowmobile registration number to another person.

38 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §13157-D** is enacted to read:

39 **§13157-D. ATV accident report data**

40 **1. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,
41 the following terms have the following meanings.

1 A. "Data" means information existing in an electronic medium and contained in an
2 accident report database.

3 B. "Nonpersonally identifiable accident report data" means any data in an accident
4 report that are not personally identifiable accident report data.

5 C. "Personally identifiable accident report data" means:

6 (1) A person's name, residential and post office box mailing address, social
7 security number, date of birth and driver's license number;

8 (2) An ATV registration number;

9 (3) An insurance policy number;

10 (4) Information contained in any free text data field of an accident report; and

11 (5) Any other information contained in a data field of an accident report that may
12 be used to identify a person.

13 **2. Accident report information.** An accident report made by a law enforcement
14 officer or a report of an ATV accident made by an operator as required by section 13157-C
15 is for the purposes of statistical analysis and accident prevention. A report or statement
16 contained in the accident report, or a report as required by section 13157-C, subsection 1,
17 or a decision made as a result of that report or statement is confidential and may not be
18 admitted as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of the accident. Such a report
19 may be admissible as evidence solely to prove compliance with this section.

20 Notwithstanding this section, the Game Warden Colonel may disclose the date, time and
21 location of the accident and the names and addresses of operators, owners, injured persons,
22 witnesses and the investigating officer.

23 **3. Accident report database; public dissemination of accident report data.** Data
24 maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service must be
25 treated as follows.

26 A. Except as provided in paragraph B, personally identifiable accident report data
27 maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service is
28 confidential.

29 B. The Bureau of Warden Service may disseminate an ATV registration number
30 contained in an accident report database maintained, administered or contributed to by
31 the Bureau of Warden Service to a person only if that person provides the Bureau of
32 Warden Service an affidavit stating that the person will not:

33 (1) Use the ATV registration number to identify or contact a person; or

34 (2) Disseminate the ATV registration number to another person.

35 C. The Bureau of Warden Service may publicly disseminate nonpersonally identifiable
36 accident report data maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of
37 Warden Service.

38 **4. Reasonable fees.** On written request, the Game Warden Colonel may furnish a
39 photocopy of the investigating officer's report at the expense of the person making the
40 request. The cost of furnishing a copy of the report is not subject to the limitations of Title
41 1, section 408-A.

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SUMMARY

This bill repeals a provision in law that allows an applicant for a hunting or fishing license to indicate that the applicant's e-mail address is confidential and that requires that information be held confidential by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It creates a new section of law related to records held by the department and databases the department contributes to related to department licenses, permits, registrations and applications. The bill also defines "data," "commercial record," "noncommercial record" and "personally identifiable information" within a noncommercial record and within a commercial record. There is more personally identifiable information held confidential for a noncommercial record than for a commercial record.

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The bill provides exemptions to holding personally identifiable information confidential, including exceptions for law enforcement purposes in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 16, section 805-A, fish and wildlife management purposes, other state and federal government entities and the person who is the subject of the record or that person's agent.

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The bill provides that data contained in a records database, whether individual or multiple records, maintained, administered or contributed to by the department that is considered confidential may not be publicly disseminated.

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The bill provides that the department may publicly disseminate nonpersonally identifiable data that is contained in a records database and may provide copies of individual records and whole or partial databases of records to individuals, businesses and other entities.

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The bill provides that the department may charge reasonable fees for both individual record requests and database requests at the expense of the person making the request. The cost of furnishing a copy of the record is not subject to the limitations of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 408-A. The bill creates all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile accident reporting system exemptions that mirror the Department of Public Safety's exemption for motor vehicle crash report data that is held in the Maine Crash Reporting Online Search and Ordering Service. These provisions allow any nonpersonally identifiable all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile accident report data to be released to the public, and the cost to process these data requests and release the records is not subject to the limitations within the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 408-A. These provisions also create definitions for "data," "nonpersonally identifiable accident report data" and "personally identifiable accident report data."

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The bill also provides that all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile accident reports or statements contained within have specific uses for law enforcement purposes and the agency can disseminate individual records or many records within records databases in accordance with this law. All-terrain vehicle and snowmobile registration numbers may be released only under an affidavit restricting the use and misuse of registration numbers, and failure to comply with reporting obligations is a Class E crime.