

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD: 202 AN ACT RELATING TO RESTRICTIONS ON FIREARMS CLARK H
WHILE HUNTING WITH BOW AND ARROW JACQUES
CONNERS
JACKSON
PUBLIC
CH # 91

OTP-AM HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

H-34 CA H S

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this bill is to allow those who hunt with bow and arrow to carry a side arm.

Committee Amendment A substitutes the word "handguns" for the words "side arms" and adds a sunset provision to the bill.

LD: 265 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A BEAR STAMP TO HUNT BEAR TUTTLE
JACQUES
MATTHEWS Z
SMITH C B

LV-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the purchase of a bear stamp before bear can be hunted.

LD: 269 AN ACT TO ALLOW CERTAIN FISH AND WILDLIFE MATTHEWS Z
OFFENSES TO BE TREATED AS CIVIL VIOLATIONS ERWIN P
ROTONDI
MILLS

LV-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

Most fish and wildlife violations are considered Class E crimes even though the misconduct may not be criminal in nature. In many types of fish and wildlife "crimes", fines seldom exceed \$100, and jail sentences are never imposed. Also, the criminal record which accompanies conviction of many of these violations is unwarranted.

This bill gives prosecutors the option to handle certain fish and wildlife offenses as either criminal or civil violations. A prosecutor would not have this discretion in the more serious cases.

By eliminating the threat of incarceration and the social stigma associated with criminal records, most violations would be settled at the District Court level without excessive cost to the State.