

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1987

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

LD 1653 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF GILL NETS BY
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
PERSONNEL FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

PL 1987
c. 241
EMERGENCY

Sponsor: JACQUES
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 40

SUMMARY: The original bill, LD 40, reauthorized the use of gill nets in inland waters by agents of the State, subject to rules adopted by the Commissioner and reviewed by the Legislature. The use of gill nets by State fishery biologists was allowed until 1980. The Legislature took away this authority because of perceived abuses of this lethal collection tool.

Since 1980, fishery biologists have been unable to effectively evaluate stocking programs, complete biological inventories and efficiently collect samples for bioassays.

The new draft restricts the use of gill nets in inland waters to personnel from the Department. Any agency requesting this service from the Department is required to fully reimburse them for all costs related to the project. The gill nets also must be clearly marked and the results of the operation forwarded to the Commissioner.

The Committee felt strongly about reinforcing penalty provisions for State personnel abusing the privilege of using gill nets and added a penalty provision to the bill.

Finally, the Committee put a sunset clause on the authorization to repeal in 1989. The Department will summarize its use of these nets after two years. An emergency clause was added to allow the use of gill nets this coming summer.

LD 1724 AN ACT TO REVISE AND UPDATE CERTAIN FISH AND
WILDLIFE LAWS.

PL 1987
c. 317

Sponsor: USHER, Brawn, Clark H, Greenlaw
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 1532

SUMMARY: This bill was an omnibus bill and included many miscellaneous issues. It increases the period the commissioner may revoke licenses after a hunting or fishing violation, clarifies marking or banding requirements for exotic species, includes prohibiting anyone from assisting someone in violating smelt limits, deletes several sections that should have been deleted under previous bills, allows trappers to set only 2 traps for bear at any one time and requires them to be tended daily, changes the effective date of the trapper training requirement, corrects inconsistencies between the muzzle loading season and

license, addresses problems with registering trapped bears, legalizes the use of .35 caliber handguns for hunting moose, updates snowmobile laws and no longer makes it illegal to operate snowmobiles or ATVs on abandoned railroad right-of-ways.

LD RESOLVE, TO CREATE THE COMMISSION ON SPORT RESOLVE 1987
1744 FISHERIES TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF ENHANCING c. 39
AND UPGRADING FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EMERGENCY
STATE

Sponsor: TUTTLE, Jacques, Duffy, Greenlaw
Committee Report: New draft of LD 1362
Amendments Adopted:
S-143 USHER

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a sport fisheries commission to evaluate innovative hatchery programs, the potential for exotic introductions and alternative sources of funding for these initiatives. The new draft fleshed out administrative details of the original bill.

The bill was amended in the Senate to change the appointing authority for the commission and to change the funding source from General Fund monies to dedicated revenues of the Department.

LD AN ACT TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOCATIONS TO THE P&SL 1987
1848 DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE FOR c. 40
THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 1988, AND EMERGENCY
JUNE 30, 1989.

Sponsor: USHER, Farren, Jacques
Committee Report: New draft of LD 555

SUMMARY: This bill is the part II budget which provides funds to finance several reclassifications, improve department administration, strengthen the resource management division and provide needed capital equipment. The Office of the Commissioner adds three new positions to improve landowner relations, coordinate federal aid and improve public relations. The supplemental state budget included allocations of over \$425,000 for fiscal year 87-88 and over \$340,000 for fiscal year 88-89.

Federal funds were allocated to partially fund new positions, fund acquisition of motor boat access and fund two project positions for endangered nongame operations. Federal allocations were over \$350,000 for fiscal year 87-88 and over \$324,000 for fiscal year 88-89.