

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

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Sen. R. Leo Kieffer

Sen. Michael H. Michaud

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Rep. John Underwood

Staff:

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**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

***Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
June 1996***

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

It creates the Hunters for the Hungry Program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The program utilizes the existing temporary emergency food assistance programs administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to distribute lawfully harvested wild game meat to soup kitchens, shelters, food pantries, churches and other organizations throughout the State. The Hunters for the Hungry Program allows any person to donate any lawfully obtained game either to the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program or directly to one of the eligible kitchens, shelters or churches. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may adopt rules to implement the program, working in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. Part C also extends immunity from civil liability to persons who lawfully donate wild game meat and to the organizations that handle and distribute that meat.

It requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to appoint a warden or retired warden as a member of the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Whitewater Guides and establishes a 3-year term for public members of the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Whitewater Guides;

Chapter 667 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 11, 1996.

LD 1726

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

PUBLIC 695
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-465

LD 1726 proposed provisions to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. That Task Force was established by Public Law 1995, chapter 455, section 44.

LD 1726 proposed to change the period of boat registration from one year to 3 years for registrations issued on or after July 1, 1996, and to increase the registration fee from \$4 to \$12 to reflect the increased term of the registration.

The bill also proposed to require the task force to meet on any day between June 1, 1996 and June 30, 1996 to review the progress of the department in implementing the recommendations of the task force, to create a position within the department for a full-time coordinator of volunteers and to provide an allocation for the use of federal funds to conduct surveys of hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive users of the State's fish and wildlife resources.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-465) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to require that watercraft registrations and certificates of number issued after July 1, 1996 be valid for specific calendar years, rather than for the 12-month period following the date the certificates of number are issued.

The amendment also proposed to retain the requirement in the bill that the Task Force to Study the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife meet in June to evaluate the department's progress, but makes a technical correction and removes the provision that would have allowed the members to receive per diem and expenses for that meeting.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 695, requires watercraft registrations and certificates of number issued after July 1, 1996 be valid for specific calendar years, rather than for the 12-month period following the date the certificates of number are issued. The law also the Task Force to Study the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to meet in June to evaluate the department's progress without per diem or expenses.

Chapter 695 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 11, 1996.

LD 1737 An Act to Improve the Ability of Potential Users of Private Land to Seek Permission from Landowners ONTP

Sponsor(s)
STUDY BILL

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1737 proposed to permit the Support Landowners Program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, also known as the Landowner Relations Program, to encourage landowners who allow access to their property only with permission to conspicuously post signs on the property containing the name and address of the owner or another person with authority to grant permission. The substance of this bill was incorporated into LD 1645.

**LD 1820 An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Commercial Whitewater Rafting CONF CMTE
UNABLE TO AGREE**

Sponsor(s)
MICHAUD

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

LD 1820 proposed to allow 2 members of an affiliated group to conduct whitewater trips on an allocated river if each member of the affiliated group had been awarded an allocation for that river. The bill also proposed to clarify existing law concerning requests to run whitewater trips on an allocated river by a former member of an affiliated group.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-486) proposed to replace the bill and make the bill an emergency.

The amendment proposed to allow 2 outfitters, but not more than 2, to form an affiliated group and conduct whitewater rafting trips on an allocated river if both outfitters have been awarded allocations for that river and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife determines that the affiliation would not result in more than 60% of the total allocations for that river being held by affiliated outfitters.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-508) proposed to strike the emergency preamble and the emergency clause.

Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-509) proposed to allow 2 outfitters to form an affiliated group and conduct whitewater rafting trips on an allocated river under the conditions stated in the committee amendment if the combined total allocations for that river for those 2 outfitters did not exceed 120.

Senate Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-510) proposed to allow 2 outfitters to form an affiliated group and conduct whitewater rafting trips on an allocated river