

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin
Sen. Stephen E. Hall

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

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:

CON RES XXX..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
INDEF PP.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

LD 152 **An Act to Create a 3-Person Regional Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council within Each Resource Management Administrative Region** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
UNDERWOOD	ONTP	

LD 152 proposed to reorganizes the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council from 10 members based on county representation to 7 members selected from the resource management regions established by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

This bill also proposed to create 3-member regional councils within each resource management region for the purpose of enhancing local input into fisheries and wildlife issues of local and statewide interest. The member of the state advisory council from each region is a member and chair of that region's local council. The other 2 members of a regional council are selected by the advisory council. Regional councils are required to hold at least 2 meetings each calendar year and to provide reasonable public notice of each meeting. All members serve without compensation.

The bill also proposed to repeal an existing provision of law granting the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife voting authority for the purpose of breaking a tie.

LD 368 **An Act to Allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Create Lifetime Fishing and Hunting Licenses** **PUBLIC 679**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHICK	OTP-AM MAJ	H-1013
HALL	ONTP MIN	H-1036 UNDERWOOD

LD 368 proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish and maintain an endowment fund to allow the issuance of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-101) replaced the bill and was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The amendment proposed a more detailed framework for implementation of lifetime licenses for specific age groups.

This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1036) clarifies that the holder of a resident lifetime fishing or hunting license must comply with all the limitations and prerequisites imposed on residents the same age who hold the equivalent annual license.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 679 authorizes the issuance of lifetime fishing and hunting licenses beginning in the year 2000 to residents from zero to 5 years of age and to residents 65 years of age or older.

Money from the sale of these licenses is dedicated to the Lifetime License Fund, created in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, except that the commissioner may withhold funds from deposit in the account as needed to avoid a loss in license revenue. The fund is administered by the Treasurer of State, who is directed to contract with investment firms as necessary to manage the fund for growth and income over the long term. The department will receive no revenue from the fund until the year 2010, at which time the department will begin receiving annual payments from the fund in an amount equal to 5 percent of the fund principal. All funds received by the department from the fund are subject to allocation by the Legislature.

LD 751 An Act to Outlaw the Use of Eel Pots in Inland Waters ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STEDMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 751 proposed to prohibit the use of eel pots in inland waters. The effective date of this bill was proposed to be January 1, 1998 so that persons possessing eel pot permits issued for calendar year 1997 may have lawfully fished for eels on inland waters using an eel pot until the expiration of that permit.

LD 1159 An Act to Open Trapping Season on Saturday ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1159 proposed that the open season on trapping begin on a Saturday.

LD 1162 An Act to Clarify the Duties of the Maine Atlantic Salmon Authority ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'NEIL KIEFFER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1162 proposed to clarify that the Atlantic Salmon Authority has the sole authority to introduce, import, stock and rear or to permit the introduction, importation, stocking and rearing of Atlantic salmon, live or as eggs, into the State or into the inland or coastal waters of the State.