

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

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

JULY 1997

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Sen. Stephen E. Hall

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 1997

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. 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular 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 IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</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/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</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>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</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>Bill held by Governor</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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

such as the Maine Snowmobile Association, and allocates \$10 of the \$35 registration fee for nonmembers of such a club to an incorporated statewide snowmobile association, such as the Maine Snowmobile Association. The bill also proposed to exempt residents of New Brunswick, Quebec and New Hampshire from having to register snowmobiles in this State if they have registered the snowmobiles in their home states or provinces.

LD 1704 An Act to Require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife PUBLIC 312
to File Monthly Revenue Reports

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

LD 1704 proposed to require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to submit a monthly report of revenues and expenditures to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 312 requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to submit a monthly report of revenues and expenditures to each member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters.

LD 1736 An Act to Register New Property for the Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary PUBLIC 288
with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LEMAIRE CATHCART	OTP	

LD 1736 proposed to add the description of land recently acquired by the Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary to the statutory description of that bird sanctuary.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 288 adds the description of land recently acquired by the Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary to the statutory description of that bird sanctuary.

LD 1801 An Act to Adopt Long-range Changes in the Methods by Which CARRIED OVER
Whitewater Rafting Trips Are Allocated among Licensees

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

LD 1801 proposes to amend the commercial whitewater rafting laws in the following manner.

1. Setting a recreational use limit for commercial passengers on the Kennebec River of 1000 per day, effectively increasing the number of passengers allowed on Saturdays from 800 to 1000 passengers. These 200 new allocations must be auctioned by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by December 1, 1997 and the proceeds distributed equally between the General Fund and the department.
2. Requiring the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to designate certain unallocated days during which an outfitter may carry up to 120 passengers per unallocated day.
3. Establishing a limit of 240 passengers per day on the Dead River for an outfitter.
4. Repealing the five-year term for awarded allocations and specifies that the department may suspend, revoke or reduce the number of allocations when the department determines it is advisable to do so for better management or protection of public safety and welfare. The department may also suspend or revoke the allocations of an outfitter who fails to meet certain specified requirements.
5. Repealing the current allocation procedures and the requirement that the department allocate the right to conduct whitewater trips, instead giving the department the discretion to make allocations. Allocations may be transferred between outfitters subject to approval by the department. An outfitter is required to submit reports to the department documenting river use.

The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.