

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin

Sen. R. Leo Kieffer

Rep. Matthew Dunlap, Chair

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

CARRIED OVER.....Bill carried over to Second Regular Session
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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

LD 1419

An Act to Establish an Exemption from Horsepower Limitations on Lower Range Pond to Allow an Annual One-day Waterskiing Tournament

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SNOWE-MELLO	ONTP	

LD 1419 proposed to waive the horsepower limitations on Lower Range Pond in Poland adopted by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to allow an annual, one-day, sanctioned waterskiing tournament to be held on that pond. The proposed waiver would have applied to the two days preceding the event and the day of the event.

LD 1435

An Act to Promote Equitable and Professional Management of Moose

CARRIED OVER

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

LD 1435 proposes to amend the moose hunting statutes to allow the number of permits to hunt moose to be based on current information available rather than set limits. It also proposes to change the fee amounts for the permits and applications, as well as assigning money from the applications to youth conservation education programs. Finally, it proposes to repeal the sections that establish public auctions for moose hunting permits.

LD 1465

An Act Regarding Qualifications to Enter the Moose Lottery

ONTP

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

LD 1465 proposed to eliminate the requirement that residents have a valid big game hunting license to purchase a three-chance or six-chance application for the moose license lottery.

LD 1469

An Act to Increase Hunting Opportunities in the State

ONTP

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

LD 1469 proposed to allow a person who has killed a deer during the special archery season for deer to kill a second deer with a firearm during the regular firearm season for deer. The bill also proposed to repeal the regulation of the taking of antlerless deer and allow hunters to take any deer. The bill proposed to require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at the end of the hunting season for the years 1999 and 2000 on the results of having an open deer hunting season as opposed to a restricted hunting season. The bill also proposed to increase the moose hunting permits from 2,000 to 3,000. While this bill was voted ONTP by the committee, the Legislature enacted P. L. 402, (See LD 667) which allows 3000 permits to be

drawn in 1999 and 2000. The Legislature also enacted P. L. 16, (Part I budget bill) which allows holders of expanded archery licenses to take two deer.

LD 1507 **An Act to Limit Fishing Regulations for a Portion of the Big Machias River** **ONTP**

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

LD 1507 proposed to repeal the special fishing regulations currently in effect on a segment of the Big Machias River in Aroostook County leaving those waters subject only to the seasons and limits established in general law. The bill also proposed to prohibit the department from adopting new special regulations for that segment of river for a period of 5 years. While this bill was voted ONTP by the committee, its terms were included in the fisheries and wildlife omnibus bill, P. L. 403. (See LD 2088)

LD 1529 **An Act Regarding the Affiliation Definition Test for Rafting Companies** **ONTP**

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

LD 1529 proposed to limit the application of the term "affiliated outfitter" under the whitewater rafting laws to commercial whitewater rafting outfitters who operate on the same river. Under current law, the term applies to all commercial whitewater outfitters, regardless of the river upon which they conduct business.

LD 1584 **An Act to Limit the Caliber of Ammunition Allowed for Hunting White-tailed Deer and Black Bear** **ONTP**

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

LD 1584 proposed to establish minimum standards for ammunition used to hunt white-tailed deer and black bear. The bill proposed to prohibit the use of any bullet that weighs less than 50 grains or that has a full metal casing. The bill proposed that bullets of 50 grains or more that are less than .42 caliber must meet certain weight and power standards and that bullets of .42 caliber or greater are exempt from these prohibitions.

The bill proposed to allow prohibited ammunition to be used to kill wounded prey and further proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to allow the use of ammunition not rated in the United States if the commissioner determined that that ammunition meets the minimum standards set in this bill.