

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:

Sen. Marge L. Kilkelly, Chair

Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin

Sen. R. Leo Kieffer

Rep. Matthew Dunlap, Chair

Rep. Richard H. C. Tracy

Rep. Joseph E. Clark

Rep. Bruce S. Bryant

Rep. William R. Cote

Rep. Royce W. Perkins

Rep. Howard A. Chick

Rep. Harry G. True

Rep. Kenneth A. Honey

Rep. A. David Trahan

Staff:

David C. Webb, Esq., Legislative Analyst

***Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670***



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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.

The bill proposed to create a new violation of hunting with prohibited ammunition and establishes that violation as a Class E crime.

LD 1652

An Act to Repeal the Atlantic Salmon Authority

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1652 proposed to repeal the Atlantic Salmon Authority and transfer the authority's powers to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

LD 1686

An Act to Require the Inspection of Commercial Inland Vessels

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> THOMPSON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1686 proposed to require the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to annually inspect all commercial vessels operating on inland bodies of water and to determine if the vessel is safe and in compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

LD 1756

An Act to Allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Offer an Annual License Instead of a Lifetime License

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUNLAP		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1756 proposed to repeal the provisions for a complimentary hunting and fishing license for a resident 70 years of age or older and to provide reduced fees for a resident 65 years of age or older. A resident who holds a complimentary license on the effective date of proposed changes made by this bill would not have been affected.

LD 1820

An Act to Decriminalize Certain Fish and Wildlife Statutes

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUNLAP KILKELLY		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1820 proposes to enhance enforcement of fish and game laws, marine resources laws and motor vehicle laws by making enforcement easier and reducing the number of contested cases. It proposes to redefine several crimes as civil violations to allow efficient processing by the courts. It proposes to give violators the right to contest the matter in court. It proposes to revise the responsibilities of game wardens by allowing them to take cash or credit card payments for bail in any location when an arrest is made. It proposes to allow game wardens making arrests in Cumberland County to take the defendant to any District Court serving Cumberland County, rather than being limited to the closest court.