

# 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***

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***Rep. Harry G. True***

***Rep. Kenneth A. Honey***

***Rep. A. David Trahan***

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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](http://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.

8. It prohibits certain persons who are prohibited from possessing or being in control of firearms from obtaining or possessing the specialized hunting guide license.
9. It requires that a guide must report a violation by a client by the quickest means of communication possible.
10. It changes the special hide dealer's license commencement period from October 1st to September 1st.
11. It clarifies that a person licensed or otherwise entitled to fish in waters in this State may take suckers only for that person's own use.
12. It clarifies that a person is guilty of having a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle if that person while in or on a motor vehicle has any firearm with a cartridge or shell in the chamber or in an attached magazine, clip or cylinder or a muzzle-loading firearm charged with powder, lead and a primed-ignition device or mechanism. It also clarifies that it is not unlawful to have a loaded firearm in a motorboat but that it is unlawful to shoot from a motorboat.
13. It provides that a person may leave an unregistered deer, bear or moose in the woods for a period of time no longer than 18 hours before notifying a warden.
14. It repeals certain provisions relating to open season for hunting partridge.
15. It repeals the requirement that if a moose is dismembered for ease of transportation all pieces of the moose must be labeled with the name and address of the person who killed the moose.
16. It changes references to the "Visitor's Center at Gray" to the "Maine Wildlife Park".
17. It amends the laws regarding snowmobile rental agents by requiring that the rental agents register a snowmobile that they rent or lease in this State.
18. It amends the laws regarding personal watercraft rental agents by requiring that the rental agents register a personal watercraft that they rent or lease in this State and also changes the period for which personal watercraft rental and leasing agent certificates are valid from July 1st to June 30th to January 1st to December 31st to be consistent with boat registrations.
19. It creates a wildlife rehabilitation permit,
20. It allows snowmobiles registered as antique snowmobiles to be used for occasional personal use,
21. It prohibits any special fishing regulations on the Big Machias River until September 1, 2001,
22. It prohibits fishing from the fishway of the Sheepscot Lake Dam in Palermo
23. It allocates funds to reorganize personnel overseeing the whitewater rafting program and to establish a new position in the Wildlife Habitat Group.

Chapter 403 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 4, 1999.

**LD 2095**

**An Act to Stagger Registration for Watercraft, All-terrain Vehicles and Snowmobiles**

**ONTP**

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

LD 2095 proposed to change the registration year for snowmobiles, watercraft and all-terrain vehicles.

**LD 2206                      An Act to Implement an Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan                      INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUGAY	OTP-AM	H-606

LD 2206 proposed to require the State Planning Office to develop funding for and fully implement an Atlantic salmon conservation plan; develop model watershed plans; and complete habitat enhancement, fish passage and pollution prevention projects. This bill also proposed to require the State Planning Office to report to the Legislature on the progress of implementing an Atlantic salmon conservation plan and any other recommendations concerning watershed management by January 31, 2001.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-606)** proposed to require the Land and Water Resources Council to support Washington County and Hancock County river watershed councils in their efforts to implement recommendations in the Atlantic salmon conservation plan. Through a nonprofit organization supportive of Atlantic salmon interests, it proposed to assist in the planning and implementation of local actions. The amendment proposed to require that the Land and Water Resources Council receive reports on their progress every six months and summarize this information in the council's annual report to the Governor and the Legislature. The amendment also proposed to appropriate \$200,000 over the biennium to support the watershed councils.

**LD 2235                      An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Regarding Surface Use on Great Ponds                      PUBLIC 400 EMERGENCY**

<u>Reported by</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNLAP	OTP	

LD 2235 proposed to implement the recommendations of the towns of Woodstock, Greenwood, Northfield and Bar Harbor to restrict the use of personal watercraft on certain ponds within those towns. This bill was reported out of committee pursuant to Joint Order H. P. 1585.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 400 prohibits the use of personal watercraft on certain ponds in the Towns of Woodstock, Greenwood, Northfield and Bar Harbor.

Chapter 400 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 3, 1999.