

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

*July 2003*

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# Maine State Legislature



## Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

### 121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

#### Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i> .....	<i>Bills carried over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 &amp; 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>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</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>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i> .....	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

**David C. Elliott, Director**  
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

*Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

**LD 790**                      **An Act To Allow a Person To Assist in a Hunt**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRYANT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 790 proposed to allow a person to assist a hunter in the hunting of deer, moose and wild turkeys. The bill proposed to require that the person assisting could not possess a firearm, archery equipment, a weapon or other device to kill, capture or ensnare the deer, moose or wild turkeys during the hunt.

**LD 794**                      **An Act To Remove Home Possession Limits**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRYANT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 794 proposed to exempt from the possession limits in the hunting and fishing statutes of certain animals and fish any of those species that a person could possess in that person's home.

**LD 806**                      **An Act To Simplify the Requirements for Tagging, Registering and Transporting Harvested Animals**                      **PUBLIC 331**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRYANT PINEAU		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-142
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LD 806 proposed to simplify the tagging and registration requirements for harvested animals by providing the same tagging and registering requirements for bear, deer, moose and wild turkey. The bill also proposed to allow a person to transport a harvested animal if that animal was lawfully harvested and possessed by that person.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-142)** proposed to:

1. Remove provisions of the bill regarding gift animals;
2. Remove the requirement that the department advertise registration stations in daily newspapers;
3. Remove the requirement that tags be a part of the hunting license or permit;
4. Change the penalty language for various registration violations to make those violations Class E crimes; and
5. Clarify that once a wild animal is legally harvested, tagged and registered there are no other requirements for the transportation of that animal.

## *Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

### ***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 331 simplifies the tagging and registration requirements for harvested animals by providing the same tagging and registering requirements for bear, deer, moose and wild turkey. It allows a person to transport a harvested animal if that animal is lawfully harvested and possessed by that person. Additionally, it removes the requirement that tags be issued as part of the hunting license and makes a violation of registration requirements a Class E crime.

**LD 827                      An Act Regarding Wildlife Habitat Conservation                      CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 827 proposes to allow the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to enter into an agreement with a landowner to manage a parcel of land in the unorganized territory as wildlife habitat. An agreement may include a provision that exempts the parcel of land that is the subject of the agreement from the property tax. For a landowner who owns more than 1,000 acres in the unorganized territory, it proposes that no more than 15% of that landowner's holdings in the unorganized territory may be the subject of an agreement to manage the land as wildlife habitat.

**LD 854                      An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Operation of All-terrain Vehicles                      CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 854 proposes to:

1. Make certain civil violations involving ATVs Class E crimes;
2. Allow the impoundment of an ATV for certain violations based solely on those violations;
3. Increase the resident registration fee for ATVs to \$25, unless the person belongs to an ATV club or organization, in which case the fee is \$20; and
4. Require the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to appoint an additional game warden for each warden division of the State.