

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

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

August 2015

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# STATE OF MAINE

127<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</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; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i> .....	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i> .....	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i> ....	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>chapter # of enacted private &amp; 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>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 15, 2015. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

*Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

as being issued to a nonresident student.

**LD 257      An Act To Allow a Person To Take a 20-minute Break from Monitoring Ice Fishing Lines      ONTP**

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

This bill allows a person to leave that person's ice fishing lines unattended for up to 20 minutes every 2 hours.

**LD 275      An Act To Allow the Use of a Crossbow for Recreational Target Practice within 100 Yards of a Building without the Owner's Permission      PUBLIC 71**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOOD DAVIS	OTP-AM ONTP	H-61

Current law prohibits discharging a crossbow within 100 yards of a building or a residential dwelling without the permission of the owner or an authorized person. This bill removes that restriction.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-61)**

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill. It allows a landowner or the landowner's invitee to discharge a crossbow for recreational target practice purposes on the landowner's property within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling owned by another without the permission of the owner.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 71 allows a landowner or the landowner's invitee to discharge a crossbow for recreational target practice purposes on the landowner's property within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling owned by another without the permission of the owner.

**LD 291      An Act To Allow the Hunting of Small Game Animals with a Slingshot      ONTP**

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

This bill allows the use of a slingshot to hunt certain small game species designated by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

**LD 296      An Act To Increase Economic Development in Rural Communities by Expanding Hunting Opportunities      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BURNS TIMBERLAKE	ONTP OTP	

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

This bill allows a person with a hunting license to hunt on Sundays during the month of November on public lands greater than 10 acres in size that are open to hunting or on private property greater than 10 acres in size with the consent of the property owner.

**LD 320      An Act Regarding the Tracking of Wounded Animals with a Leashed Dog      PUBLIC 90**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK DAVIS	OTP-AM ONTP	H-76

This bill allows a person licensed to guide hunters to use one leashed dog outside of legal hunting hours to track and dispatch a bear wounded by the guide's client.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-76)**

Current law provides for a license to use leashed dogs to track wounded animals and allows a person who holds such a license to provide dog tracking services to others for a fee without being licensed as a guide. This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and consolidates those provisions and makes the following changes.

1. It converts the license to use leashed dogs to track wounded animals from an annual license for \$27 to a 3-year permit for \$81.
2. It provides that a person must hold a big game hunting license to be eligible to obtain the permit to use a leashed dog to track a wounded animal and specifies that the permit only allows the tracking of a lawfully wounded animal.
3. It allows the permit holder to track a wounded animal outside of legal hunting hours.
4. It expressly gives the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife rule-making authority to regulate activities conducted pursuant to the permit.

Current law allows a licensed hunting guide to track and dispatch a client's wounded bear, deer or moose after legal hunting hours without a license to use leashed dogs to track wounded bear, deer or moose. This amendment relocates and changes that provision of law to provide that the hunting guide must obtain authorization from the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to track and dispatch a client's wounded bear, deer or moose after legal hunting hours. It also specifies that a guide authorized to track a wounded bear, deer or moose may use one leashed dog for tracking purposes.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 90 consolidates the existing laws regarding the use of leashed dogs to track wounded animals and makes the following changes.

1. It converts the license to use leashed dogs to track wounded animals from an annual license for \$27 to a 3-year permit for \$81.
2. It provides that a person must hold a big game hunting license to be eligible to obtain the permit to use a leashed dog to track a wounded animal and specifies that the permit only allows the tracking of a lawfully wounded animal.
3. It allows the permit holder to track a wounded animal outside of legal hunting hours.
4. It expressly gives the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife rule-making authority to regulate activities