

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH 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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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 127th 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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted private & 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 127th 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

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

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conducted pursuant to the permit.

Public Law 2015, chapter 90 also provides that a 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 specifies that a guide authorized to track a wounded bear, deer or moose may use only one leashed dog for tracking purposes. Chapter 90 relocates within the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, Part 13 the provisions of law regarding a licensed hunting guide's ability to use a leashed dog to track and then 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.

LD 373 An Act To Allow a Moose Permit To Be Transferred to a Family Member

PUBLIC 95

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MIRAMANT EVANGELOS	OTP-AM	S-42

This bill authorizes a person who holds a moose permit to transfer that permit to a family member and defines "family member" to mean the transferor's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, half-sister, half-brother or adopted child. It also authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules to establish an administrative fee to cover costs associated with transferring moose permits.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-42)

This amendment replaces the bill. It limits the allowed transfer of a moose permit to a family member to cases determined by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to involve exceptional extenuating circumstances. It adds to the definition of "family member" in the bill the transferor's stepchild and grandchild.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 95 authorizes a person who holds a moose permit to transfer that permit to a family member in cases determined by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to involve exceptional extenuating circumstances. It defines "family member" to mean the transferor's spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, half-sister, half-brother and adopted child.

LD 399 An Act To Establish a Youth Bear Hunting Day

**PUBLIC 79
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOOD DAVIS	OTP-AM	H-99

This bill requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish by rule a youth bear hunting day on the Saturday prior to the opening of bear hunting season.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-99)

This amendment replaces the bill and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It establishes a youth bear hunting day on the Saturday prior to the opening of the regular bear hunting season.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 79 establishes a youth bear hunting day on the Saturday prior to the opening of the regular bear hunting season.