

# 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

FIRST REGULAR SESSION



## 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*

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.

*Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

Public Law 2015, chapter 79 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 15, 2015.

**LD 400 An Act To Continue To Permit Persons 70 Years of Age and Older To Hunt with a Crossbow**

**PUBLIC 42  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CRAFTS DAVIS	OTP	

This bill allows a person 70 years of age or older to hunt with a crossbow during any open season. Until January 1, 2015, a provision of law allowed this, but included language that repealed the provision on that date. The bill enacts the substance of that provision but without the repeal language.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 42 allows a person 70 years of age or older to hunt with a crossbow during any open season. Until January 1, 2015, a provision of law allowed this, but included language that repealed the provision on that date. Chapter 42 enacts the substance of that provision but without the repeal language.

Public Law 2015, chapter 42 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 30, 2015.

**LD 424 An Act To Allow the Use of Suppressors for Hunting Nuisance Wildlife**

**ONTP**

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

This bill allows a person to use a firearm fitted or contrived with a device for deadening the sound of explosion to kill wild animals or wild turkeys that are damaging crops, orchards or property or harming domestic animals.

**LD 479 An Act To Allow Hunting on Sunday with the Landowner's Written Consent**

**Accepted Majority  
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GREENWOOD WILLETTE	ONTP OTP	

This bill allows a person to possess hunting equipment on Sunday on a landowner's property if the person possessing the equipment has the landowner's written consent to hunt on that property. The bill also allows hunting on a landowner's property on Sunday with the landowner's written consent.

**LD 480 An Act To Allow Condominium and Homeowners Associations To Establish Swim Areas**

**Died Between  
Houses**

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