

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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-178)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill. Currently, a person may remove a beaver dam with the authorization of a game warden and as long as certain conditions are met. This amendment provides that a person may also alter a beaver dam to allow the passage of anadromous fish with the authorization of a game warden.

LD 781 An Act To Expand Turkey Hunting Opportunities

PUBLIC 127

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO	OTP-AM	S-103

This bill expands turkey hunting opportunities by:

1. Eliminating the turkey permit requirements;
2. Allowing the hunting of turkey with a big game or small game hunting license;
3. Requiring deer registration stations to also register turkeys; and
4. Providing for electronic or telephonic registration of turkeys.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-103)

This amendment replaces the bill, which eliminates wild turkey permit requirements. Current law requires that a person hold a big game license to be eligible to purchase a wild turkey permit. This amendment makes the holder of a small game license also eligible to hold a wild turkey permit. It also directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a November wild turkey hunting season that is in addition to the current fall wild turkey hunting season in October. The amendment eliminates the bill's provisions regarding registration of wild turkeys. The amendment provides an effective date of January 1, 2016.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 127 makes the holder of a small game license also eligible to hold a wild turkey permit and directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a November wild turkey hunting season that is in addition to the current fall wild turkey hunting season in October.

Public Law 2015, chapter 127 has an effective date of January 1, 2016.

LD 799 An Act To Stimulate the Economy and Invigorate the Hunting Industry by Establishing a Pilot Project To Allow Hunting on Sundays in Limited Areas

Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

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

This bill allows as a pilot project until January 1, 2018 hunting on Sundays in wildlife management districts 1 to 14, 17, 19 and 28 for any species during the open season on that species. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to submit by January 1, 2017 a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters regarding the status of the pilot project and recommendations

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

as to whether the project should be expanded, modified, reduced or terminated.

LD 801 An Act To Ensure Safe and Humane Bear Hunting Practices ONTP

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

This bill prohibits a person from hunting bear with the use of dogs. It also makes a violation of that prohibition a Class D crime and a Class C crime for a 3rd or subsequent offense. This bill provides an exemption for the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to hunt bear with the use of dogs for public safety or research purposes.

LD 802 An Act To Allow the Breach or Removal of Beaver Dams That Obstruct Passage of Anadromous or Migratory Fish ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUCKER BAKER	ONTP	

This bill gives the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources explicit authority to require fishways to be installed and maintained through beaver dams by the owners, lessees or other persons in control of the property on which a beaver dam exists or by which a beaver dam may be accessed or to require a beaver dam to be removed in order to conserve, develop or restore anadromous or migratory fish resources.

LD 807 An Act To Amend Maine's Threatened and Endangered Species List PUBLIC 121

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVIELLO WELSH	OTP-AM	S-90

This bill changes the status of certain species on the list of state endangered and state threatened species, adds species to the list and removes entries from the list.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-90)

This amendment removes the provision of the bill that would have removed two species from Maine's list of threatened species. This change corrects an error in the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 121 amends the list of state endangered and state threatened species as follows.

1. It changes the status of the Roaring Brook mayfly and Clayton's copper from endangered to threatened.
2. It adds the eastern small-footed bat to the list of state threatened species.
3. It adds to the state list of endangered species the cobblestone tiger beetle, frigga fritillary, northern long-eared bat, little brown bat and the six-whorled vertigo.