

# 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*

**LD 906      Resolve, To Review Maine's Fish Stocking Rules**

**ONTP**

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

This resolve is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This resolve proposes to have the fish stocking rules of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife reviewed for consideration and amending and the results of the review reported to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 30, 2016 with suggested changes, and the committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature on the subject matter of the report.

**LD 907      An Act To Reduce Milfoil Infestations**

**ONTP**

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

This bill provides that a permit from the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is required to install, maintain or operate a water-ski jump or slalom course on the internal waters of the State and requires that if there is an invasive plant within the area of a regatta, race, boat exhibition, water-ski exhibition or water-ski jump or slalom course, the invasive plant may not be disturbed and must be properly removed or the event, jump or course must be relocated.

**LD 913      An Act To Expand Public Opportunities for Wildlife Management  
Education**

**PUBLIC 245**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHAW SAVIELLO	OTP-AM	H-339

This bill increases hunting license fees by one dollar and directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to use that revenue on an annual basis to educate the public on the management of game species. It also directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a stakeholders group to develop a five-year public outreach campaign on the efforts of the department to manage game species, including a plan on how to use the increased revenue. The commissioner must report by February 1, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-339)**

This amendment increases the trapping license fees by one dollar and directs that the revenue be used to educate the public on the management of game species.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 245 increases hunting license fees and trapping license fees by one dollar and directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to use that revenue to educate the public on the management of game species. It also directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a stakeholders group to develop a five-year public outreach campaign on the efforts of the department to manage game species, including a

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

plan on how to use the increased revenue. The commissioner must report by February 1, 2016 to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

**LD 926      Resolve, To Increase the Number of Days a Junior Hunter May Hunt      ONTP**  
**Deer**

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

This resolve directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to amend its rules to allow a youth 10 years of age or older and under 16 years of age who possesses a junior hunting license to hunt deer on the days between Youth Deer Hunting Day and the residents-only Saturday of the regular deer hunting season, excluding Sunday.

**LD 942      An Act To Permit the Use of Firearm Noise Suppression Devices in      PUBLIC 262**  
**Hunting and To Provide for a Chief Law Enforcement Officer's**  
**Certification for Certain Firearms**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON SHAW	OTP-AM	S-218

This bill removes the prohibition on the use of firearm noise suppression devices when hunting and provides that a person who is otherwise lawfully hunting may use such devices.

It also establishes a procedure for a person to obtain a chief law enforcement officer's certification under federal law for the approval of an application to transfer or make a firearm, requires that the certification be provided in a timely fashion unless the applicant is ineligible, limits the personal information required from the applicant, establishes a right to an appeal in the case of a denial and clarifies that under the Maine Tort Claims Act the chief law enforcement officer or an employee of the chief law enforcement officer making the certification is immune from liability.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-218)**

This amendment replaces the bill but addresses both of the matters addressed in the bill: the use of noise suppression devices while hunting and requirements governing a chief law enforcement officer's certification of a federal application to transfer or make a firearm.

The portion of this amendment relating to the use of noise suppression devices:

1. Until August 1, 2018, allows a person to use a noise suppression device while hunting, as long as the person has lawful possession of the device and has not had a hunting license revoked as a result of a serious hunting violation;
2. Provides for enhanced penalties for a person who commits a hunting violation while in possession of a firearm with a noise suppression device;
3. Provides for the permanent revocation of a person's hunting license and the seizure and libel of the person's firearm and noise suppression device if the person commits a serious hunting violation while in possession of a firearm with a noise suppression device; and
4. Provides definitions of "hunting crime" and "serious hunting violation."