

# 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.

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

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*

This bill repeals the definition of the Coordinator of the Natural Areas Program and removes the Coordinator of the Natural Areas Program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry as a member of the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board and replaces that member with the Commissioner of Marine Resources.

**LD 1056     An Act To Exempt the Sale of Snowmobiles to Nonresidents from Sales Tax** **Died Between Houses**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOOD DAVIS	OTP-AM	H-179

This bill establishes an annual \$15 snowmobile trail fund sticker that must be purchased for each snowmobile registered in the State by a nonresident and that is voluntary for residents, the proceeds of which are transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands for snowmobile trail maintenance and grooming.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-179)**

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It exempts the sales of snowmobiles to nonresidents from sales tax.

**LD 1102     Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Needs, Opportunities and Efficiency Associated with the Production of Salmonid Sport Fish in Maine** **Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

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

This resolve creates the Commission to Study the Needs, Opportunities and Efficiency Associated with the Production of Salmonid Sport Fish in Maine. The commission is required to submit its report and any accompanying legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 15, 2016.

**LD 1196     An Act To Correct and Clarify Maine's Fish and Wildlife Laws** **PUBLIC 301**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS SHAW	OTP-AM	S-267

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing fish and wildlife.

1. It eliminates the disabled hunter, trapper and angler advisory committee and a reference to that committee.
2. It provides that a person must hold a valid archery hunting license to hunt with a hand-held bow and arrow during any open season on a bird or animal and that a person must hold a valid big game archery license or big game hunting license and a valid crossbow hunting license to hunt with a crossbow during any open season on a bird or animal.
3. It enacts in the statutes certain requirements regulating the use of crossbows and eliminates the maximum draw

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

weight for crossbows of 200 pounds.

4. It amends the supervisory requirements for apprentice hunter licenses and apprentice trapper licenses. It specifies that the holder of an apprentice hunter license must hunt in the presence of a person who is 18 years of age or older and who holds a valid adult hunting license and specifies that the holder of an apprentice trapper license must trap in the presence of a person that has held a valid adult trapper license for the prior three years.
5. It specifies that a nonresident junior hunting license includes all permits, stamps and other permissions needed to hunt at no additional cost.
6. It corrects cross-references to statutory provisions that authorize the taking of wildlife that attack domestic animals, destroy property or cause damage to crops or orchards.
7. It eliminates language imposing a five percent surcharge on agents who fail to pay the amount owed the State for watercraft registration, snowmobile registration and all-terrain vehicle registration.
8. It repeals the provision of current law that prohibits a person from operating an all-terrain vehicle on a private road after being forbidden to do so by the owner or a municipal official.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-267)**

This amendment does the following.

1. It creates the Camp North Woods program to provide outdoor learning opportunities to youth and creates the Camp North Woods fund.
2. It prohibits possession of wild animals or wild birds that a person does not possess by lawful means.
3. It stipulates that if a person hunts with a crossbow that does not meet certain requirements, that person commits a Class E crime.
4. It prohibits the exchange of a moose permit for any consideration other than another moose permit.
5. It imposes certain requirements for hunting deer, bear or moose with bow and arrow and firearms and prohibits the use of medicinal, poisonous or stupefying substances as bait.
6. It provides that an ice shack must be removed from a body of water upon the earlier of the date of ice out or three days after the close of ice fishing season.
7. It creates a public records exception for information concerning the location of a threatened or endangered species.
8. It increases the minimum amount of damage to watercraft that requires reporting to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from \$1,000 in current law to \$2,000.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2015, chapter 301 makes the following changes to the laws governing fish and wildlife.

1. It eliminates the disabled hunter, trapper and angler advisory committee and a reference to that committee.
2. It provides that a person must hold a valid archery hunting license to hunt with a hand-held bow and arrow during any open season on a bird or animal and that a person must hold a valid big game archery license or big game hunting license and a valid crossbow hunting license to hunt with a crossbow during any open season on a bird or

*Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

animal.

3. It enacts in the statutes certain requirements regulating the use of crossbows and eliminates the maximum draw weight for crossbows of 200 pounds.
4. It amends the supervisory requirements for apprentice hunter licenses and apprentice trapper licenses. It specifies that the holder of an apprentice hunter license must hunt in the presence of a person who is 18 years of age or older and who holds a valid adult hunting license and specifies that the holder of an apprentice trapper license must trap in the presence of a person that has held a valid adult trapper license for the prior three years.
5. It specifies that a nonresident junior hunting license includes all permits, stamps and other permissions needed to hunt at no additional cost.
6. It corrects cross-references to statutory provisions that authorize the taking of wildlife that attack domestic animals, destroy property or cause damage to crops or orchards.
7. It eliminates language imposing a five percent surcharge on agents who fail to pay the amount owed the State for watercraft registration, snowmobile registration and all-terrain vehicle registration.
8. It repeals the provision of current law that prohibits a person from operating an all-terrain vehicle on a private road after being forbidden to do so by the owner or a municipal official.
9. It creates the Camp North Woods program to provide outdoor learning opportunities to youth and creates the Camp North Woods fund.
10. It prohibits possession of wild animals or wild birds that a person does not possess by lawful means.
11. It stipulates that if a person hunts with a crossbow that does not meet certain requirements, that person commits a Class E crime.
12. It prohibits the exchange of a moose permit for any consideration other than another moose permit.
13. It imposes certain requirements for hunting deer, bear or moose with bow and arrow and firearms and prohibits the use of medicinal, poisonous or stupefying substances as bait.
14. It provides that an ice shack must be removed from a body of water upon the earlier of the date of ice out or three days after the close of ice fishing season.
15. It creates a public records exception for information concerning the location of a threatened or endangered species.
16. It increases the minimum amount of damage to watercraft that requires reporting to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from \$1,000 in current law to \$2,000.

**LD 1202      Resolve, To Ensure the Stocking of Inland Waters in the State**

**RESOLVE 53**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS SHORT	OTP-AM	S-171