

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

1. It provides that a swim line or developed swim area may not exceed 50 percent of the entire length of the shore frontage of the property from which the developed swim area or the area delineated by a swim line extends or 200 feet, whichever is greater, except that in no event may the developed swim area or the area delineated by a swim line extend beyond the shore frontage of the property. The length of the developed swim area or of an area delineated by a swim line must be measured parallel to the shore.
2. It removes the special penalties for establishing a swim area without a permit. It leaves in place the general civil penalty applicable under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 1806.
3. It removes the permit fee exemptions for governmental entities and recreational camps and requires that all permits expire after five years.
4. It provides that permit fee revenues go into the Boating Facilities Fund and may be used in administering the swim area law.
5. It provides that a permit for a swim line or a developed swim area may be issued only if the swim line or developed swim area is designed solely to provide recreational swimming opportunities for the public. If the director determines, after notice and opportunity for hearing, that a swim line or a developed swim area is being used for purposes other than to provide recreational swimming opportunities for the public, the director may revoke the permit.

LD 1226 **An Act To Establish a Comprehensive Hunting License**

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

Sponsor(s)

SHAW

Committee Report

ONTP
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

This bill expands the current resident hunting license and nonresident hunting license to encompass and replace all other hunting licenses and hunting permits except the:

1. Junior hunting license;
2. Resident and nonresident apprentice hunting licenses;
3. Antlerless deer and special deer season permits;
4. Moose permit;
5. Pheasant permit;
6. Waterfowl permit;
7. Falconry permit; and
8. Migratory bird permit.

This bill increases the fee for a resident and a nonresident hunting license from \$25 to \$38 and from \$114 to \$143, respectively. This bill also increases the fee on resident and nonresident hunting and fishing combination licenses from \$42 to \$55 and from \$149 to \$178, respectively, to reflect the increase in the hunting license fee.

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

It also provides that infant, junior and senior resident archery lifetime hunting licenses purchased prior to January 1, 2016 remain valid and provide the same hunting opportunities as the expanded infant, junior and senior resident lifetime hunting licenses.

This bill maintains the current firearm, bow and arrow and crossbow hunter education requirements.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-431)

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, changes the title and replaces the bill. It creates a permit package, which authorizes the holder to hunt with a crossbow or muzzle-loader, and authorizes the holder to hunt bear, wild turkey, pheasant, migratory waterfowl, coyote at night and antlerless deer and deer of either sex during an expanded archery season, if an expanded archery season is adopted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by rule. The amendment sets the fee for the permit package at \$34, except as otherwise provided.

**LD 1232 Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Accepted Majority
Amend Its Rules Regarding the Bag Limit on Smelts (ONTP) Report**

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

This resolve directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to amend its rules to increase the daily bag limit on smelts from two quarts of live smelts to 72 live smelts.

LD 1239 An Act To Allow Persons To Train and Use Dogs To Hunt Coyotes ONTP

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

This bill allows a person to train and use dogs to hunt coyotes.

**LD 1296 An Act To Repeal Authorization for Smelt Fishing in Mud Brook in PUBLIC 125
Aroostook County EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCELWEE EDGECOMB P	OTP	

Current law provides that, notwithstanding laws to the contrary, a person may fish for smelt by use of a dip net in Mud Brook, a tributary of Long Lake within Township 17, Range 3, Aroostook County. This bill repeals the provision that authorizes smelting in Mud Brook.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2015, chapter 125 repeals the provisions of law that authorize smelting by use of a dip net in Mud Brook, a tributary of Long Lake within Township 17, Range 3, Aroostook County.

Public Law 2015, chapter 125 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 29, 2015.