

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
128<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 2017

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# STATE OF MAINE

128<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 128<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 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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 1083 An Act To Increase the Penalties for Hunting Deer over Bait**

**PUBLIC 202**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUELL W MAKER J	OTP-AM ONTP	H-148 H-411 TUELL W

This bill makes the penalty for hunting over bait during an open season on deer a mandatory fine of \$500. It also provides for the one-year suspension of a hunting license of a person convicted of doing so.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-148)**

This amendment provides, like the bill, that the hunting license of a person who is convicted of hunting over bait during an open season on deer must be revoked for one year. The amendment adds a provision for a two-year revocation for a second offense. The amendment removes the provision of the bill that imposes a mandatory fine of \$500.

**House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-411)**

This amendment amends Committee Amendment "A" to make a person convicted a 2nd time of placing or hunting over bait when hunting deer permanently ineligible to obtain a hunting license.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 202 provides that the hunting license of a person who is convicted of hunting over bait during an open season on deer must be revoked for one year and a person convicted a second time is permanently ineligible to obtain a hunting license.

**LD 1137 An Act To Lower the Age at Which a Person May Hunt with a Crossbow during Any Open Season**

**PUBLIC 239**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERRISH K COLLINS R	OTP-AM OTP-AM ONTP	H-351

This bill expands crossbow hunting for deer into the regular archery-only season on deer. It removes the requirement that a person must have a valid hunting or archery hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license or archery hunting license in order to hunt with a crossbow. It also lowers from 70 years of age to 65 years of age the age at which a person may hunt a wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal, hunt in an expanded archery zone and hunt during muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-351)**

This amendment removes the provisions of the bill that expand crossbow hunting for deer into the regular archery-only season on deer and that remove the requirement that a person must have a valid hunting or archery hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license or archery hunting license in order to hunt with a crossbow. The amendment retains the provision of the bill that lowers from 70 years of age to 65 years of age the age at which a person may hunt a wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal, hunt in an expanded archery zone and hunt during muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-352)**

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

*Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2017, chapter 239 lowers from 70 years of age to 65 years of age the age at which a person may hunt a wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal, hunt in an expanded archery zone and hunt during muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season.

**LD 1179      An Act To Increase Funding for Programs That Support the Mission of      ONTP**  
**the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

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

This bill creates the Maine Outdoor Programs and Activities Fund, administered by the Maine Outdoor Programs and Activities Fund Board, to carry out the mission of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The fund provides on a regional basis funding and grants to departmental and other outdoor programs and activities including funding for snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle trail improvements, fish and game organizations and youth outdoor activity programs. The Maine Outdoor Programs and Activities Fund is funded by adding \$1 to a resident fishing license fee and \$2 to a nonresident season fishing license fee for persons 16 years of age or older.

**LD 1218      Resolve, To Allow the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To      RESOLVE 2**  
**Extend the 2017 Ice Fishing Season      EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P	OTP-AM	S-13

Current law allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to change the date of the opening of a fishing season due to seasonal temperature changes or weather conditions. This bill eliminates the reference to seasonal temperature changes and allows the commissioner to change both the opening and closing dates of a fishing season based on weather conditions.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-13)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt emergency rules to extend the 2017 ice fishing season on the inland waters of the State if the extension is warranted due to weather conditions.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2017, chapter 2 allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt emergency rules to extend the 2017 ice fishing season on the inland waters of the State if the extension is warranted due to weather conditions.

Resolve 2017, chapter 2 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective March 30, 2017.

**LD 1236      An Act To Improve Maine's Heritage Fish List      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK R SAVIELLO T		