

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
129<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 2019

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# STATE OF MAINE

129<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 129<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 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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 649      An Act To Enhance Collaboration among State Agencies To Improve Landowner Relations      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COREY P BREEN C	ONTP	

This bill directs all state agencies and in particular the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Economic and Community Development to collaborate with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to implement the landowner relations program. This bill directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to organize the collaboration to distribute as evenly as practicable the burden experienced by the various agencies arising from the public use of private lands.

**LD 650      An Act To Strengthen Maine's Landowner Relations Program      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COREY P BREEN C		

This bill provides ongoing funding for five additional Deputy Game Warden positions and associated costs in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 652      An Act To Modify Maine's Ice Fishing Laws with Respect to Cusk Fishing      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GRIGNON C FARRIN B	ONTP	

This bill changes how often a person is required to check cusk lines while ice fishing from at least once every hour in the nighttime to at least once every 24 hours.

**LD 663      An Act To Allow Holders of Gold Star Family Registration Plates To Be Issued Complimentary Licenses To Hunt, Trap and Fish and To Exempt Them from Vehicle Registration Fees      INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FECTEAU J		

This bill allows the holder of a registration certificate and a set of gold star family registration plates pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 524-B to be issued a complimentary license to hunt, trap and fish, including permits, stamps and other permissions needed to hunt. It also exempts a person with a registration certificate and a set of gold star family registration plates from the annual motor vehicle registration fee.

*Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

This bill was not referred to committee.

**LD 695      An Act To Require Biodegradable Hooks and Lures for Freshwater Fishing      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P MASON R		

Beginning January 1, 2024, this bill prohibits fishing in inland waters using nonbiodegradable hooks or certain nonbiodegradable artificial lures. A person who violates this prohibition commits a Class E crime.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 708      An Act To Allow the Transfer of a Moose Hunting Permit to a Disabled Veteran      PUBLIC 191 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON T MARTIN J	OTP-AM	S-112

This bill allows a person eligible to participate in the public chance drawing for a moose hunting permit to indicate on the application for a permit the person's intention that the permit be issued to a wounded service member or veteran. The person may indicate the identity of the wounded service member or veteran or request that the commissioner randomly draw the name of a wounded service member or veteran from a list maintained by the commissioner of wounded service members and veterans who have submitted their names for consideration to receive a moose hunting permit under this process.

This bill defines a wounded service member or veteran as a person who incurred a physical or mental injury, illness or wound while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and who is otherwise eligible to receive a moose hunting permit.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-112)**

This amendment replaces the title and the bill and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It allows a person who holds a valid moose permit to transfer that permit to an eligible disabled veteran. If a person does not identify a specific disabled veteran to receive the transferred permit, the permit may be returned to the department, which provides for the transfer of the permit to a disabled veteran.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 191 allows a person who holds a valid moose permit to transfer that permit to an eligible disabled veteran. If a person does not identify a specific disabled veteran to receive the transferred permit, the permit may be returned to the department, which provides for the transfer of the permit to a disabled veteran.

Public Law 2019, chapter 191 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 5, 2019.