

# 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  
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 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 713**      **An Act To Strengthen Maine's Endangered Species Laws**

**PUBLIC 267**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NADEAU C	OTP-AM	H-275

This bill gives a law enforcement officer discretion in issuing a warning to a first-time violator of the State's laws prohibiting negligently feeding, baiting or harassing an endangered or threatened species or feeding, baiting or harassing a delisted species. It removes the requirement that a law enforcement officer must issue a warning to a first-time violator of the law prohibiting intentionally feeding, baiting or harassing an endangered or threatened species.

It increases from Class E crimes to Class D crimes negligently importing, exporting, hunting, taking, trapping, possessing, processing, selling, offering for sale, delivering, carrying, transporting, shipping, feeding, baiting or harassing endangered or threatened species. It also increases from Class D crimes to Class C crimes intentionally engaging in any of those acts with endangered, threatened and delisted species.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-275)**

This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment:

1. Provides that for conviction of certain Class E crimes of negligence related to endangered or threatened species, the maximum allowable fine of \$1,000 must be adjudged;
2. Removes the requirement that, for a first-time offense of negligently feeding, setting bait for or harassing any endangered or threatened species, a law enforcement officer must issue a warning;
3. Provides that for conviction of certain Class D crimes involving intentional acts related to endangered or threatened species, the maximum allowable fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged;
4. Removes the requirement that, for a first-time offense of intentionally feeding, setting bait for or harassing any endangered or threatened species, a law enforcement officer must issue a warning;
5. Provides that for conviction of certain Class D crimes involving intentional conduct related to a delisted species, the maximum allowable fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged;
6. Removes the requirement that, for a first-time offense of intentionally harassing a delisted species, a law enforcement officer must issue a warning; and
7. Removes the prohibition on intentionally feeding or setting bait for a delisted species.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 267 does the following:

1. Provides that for conviction of certain Class E crimes of negligence related to endangered or threatened species, the maximum allowable fine of \$1,000 must be adjudged;
2. Removes the requirement that, for a first-time offense of negligently feeding, setting bait for or harassing any endangered or threatened species, a law enforcement officer must issue a warning;
3. Provides that for conviction of certain Class D crimes involving intentional acts related to endangered or

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

threatened species, the maximum allowable fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged;

4. Removes the requirement that, for a first-time offense of intentionally feeding, setting bait for or harassing any endangered or threatened species, a law enforcement officer must issue a warning;
5. Provides that for conviction of certain Class D crimes involving intentional conduct related to a delisted species, the maximum allowable fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged;
6. Removes the requirement that, for a first-time offense of intentionally harassing a delisted species, a law enforcement officer must issue a warning; and
7. Removes the prohibition on intentionally feeding or setting bait for a delisted species.

**LD 728      An Act To Fairly Compensate Registration Stations for Bear, Deer,      ONTP**  
**Moose and Turkey Registrations**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMPSON H BLACK R	ONTP	

This bill amends the law governing registration of harvested animals to have registration agents retain \$4 of each registration seal for a bear, deer or moose. It also increases the amount collected for each wild turkey registered to \$3, leaving the amount retained at \$2.

**LD 865      An Act To Provide Funding for Hunting Opportunities for Disabled      PUBLIC 199**  
**Veterans**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEWART T LUCHINI L	OTP-AM	H-273

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to amend the laws governing the funding sources of the controlled moose hunt season in the State.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-273)**

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, and changes the title. It allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to accept monetary donations to support hunting opportunities for disabled veterans. It requires the commissioner to transfer those donations to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to be deposited into the Hunting Opportunities for Disabled Veterans Fund, a nonlapsing fund to be used for the purpose of making funds available to organizations that provide disabled veterans with hunting opportunities. The fund may also receive any other monetary gifts, donations or other contributions from public or private sources. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 199 allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to accept monetary donations to support hunting opportunities for disabled veterans. It requires the commissioner to transfer those donations to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to be deposited into the Hunting Opportunities for Disabled Veterans Fund, a nonlapsing fund to be used for the purpose of making funds available to organizations that provide disabled veterans with hunting opportunities. The fund may also receive any other monetary gifts, donations or other contributions from public or private sources.