

# 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

### Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 204 amends the definition of "ATV" to limit that definition to a motor-driven, off-road, recreational vehicle that was designed by the manufacturer for and is capable of cross-country travel and excludes a motor vehicle as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 42.

#### LD 1117 An Act To Encourage Turkey Hunting

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BELLOWS S HICKMAN C		

This bill does the following.

1. It removes the requirement that person would need to obtain a permit to hunt wild turkey and the corresponding fee for that permit.
2. It removes the requirement that person must tag a wild turkey harvested at a registration station.
3. It removes the discretion of the commissioner to establish the number of and sex of wild turkey that a person could harvest and specifies that the commissioner must allow by rule a person to harvest four male wild turkeys in the spring and eight wild turkeys of either sex during the fall.
4. It requires a person to report at the end of the wild turkey hunting season to the department how many wild turkeys that person harvested.

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

#### LD 1118 An Act To Give the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Rule-making Authority To Establish a Bear Season Framework and Bag Limits

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P NADEAU C		

This bill does the following.

1. It reduces the resident bear hunting and trapping permit fees from \$27 to \$10, but retains the nonresident hunting permit fee at \$74 and the nonresident trapping fee at \$67.
2. It removes the statutorily set bear hunting and trapping season dates and gives the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife the authority to establish the bear hunting and trapping season dates by rule, but prohibits those seasons from starting any earlier than August 1st and ending any later than December 15th.
3. It removes the two bear harvesting limit for an individual annually for hunting and trapping bear and gives the commissioner the authority to establish the bag limit for the hunting or trapping bear in rule.
4. It removes the requirement that a cable trap have a closing diameter of not less than 2.5 inches and instead

*Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

specifies that a person may not set a bear trap other than as authorized by rule.

- 5. It allows the commissioner by rule to prohibit the use of dogs to hunt black bear.
- 6. It changes the sentencing requirements for a person who hunts or traps a bear beyond the maximum number of bear allowed by rule during the hunting or trapping season.
- 7. It changes the sentencing requirement for a person that possess more than the number of bears allowed by rule.
- 8. It changes language that currently states that a person who possesses a valid trapping license may obtain a permit to trap a bear to state that a person who has a valid trapping license or a valid license to hunt deer, moose and bear may obtain a permit to trap bear.
- 9. It requires that a person who applies for a bear trapping permit to submit proof of having successfully completed a bear trapping education course provided by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or to show evidence that the person held a valid bear trapping permit in any year prior to 2020.

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

**LD 1124      An Act To Amend the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Process      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK R LANDRY S	ONTP	

This bill limits the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board to awarding no more than 20% of all grant funds to projects of the State's natural resources agencies. It also prohibits members of the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board who are members of natural resources agencies from participating in decisions awarding funding to their natural resources agencies.

**LD 1147      Resolve, To Direct the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To      RESOLVE 35**  
**Study Registration Fees for All-terrain Vehicles and Snowmobiles**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEARNS P DAVIS P	OTP-AM	H-184

This bill limits, by definition, the size of an all-terrain vehicle to 65 inches in width and 2,000 pounds in weight, prohibits operation of motor vehicles on a designated all-terrain vehicle trail that is not on a gravel road system and prohibits operation of all-terrain vehicles on trails posted with size or weight limitations unless that use has been authorized by the landowner or the landowner's agent. It also increases all-terrain vehicle registration fees by \$12, which must be transferred to the ATV Recreational Management Fund.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-184)**

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. It directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to review, in consultation with interested parties, the current registration fees for all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles to consider alternatives to the current fee structure and the potential effects on revenue that these alternatives may have. It requires the commissioner to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife detailing the alternatives considered and any recommendations. It gives the committee the authority to