

# 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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REP. SEAN C. PAULUS\*

**STAFF:**

DEIRDRE SCHNEIDER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

\*Committee member for a portion of the session

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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***

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

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

report out a bill based on the commissioner's report.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2019, chapter 35 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 by February 1, 2020, detailing the alternatives considered and any recommendations. It gives the committee the authority to report out a bill based on the commissioner's report.

**LD 1179      An Act To Expand Coyote Hunting to Every Day of the Coyote Hunting Season and To Eliminate Fees      ONTP**

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

This bill abolishes the coyote night hunting permit fee, allows hunters to hunt coyotes on Sundays during the regular hunting season, which under current Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife rules is from January 1st to December 31st, and eliminates any license fee that may be charged in connection with coyote hunting for the 2019 regular season.

**LD 1252      An Act Regarding Snowmobile Registration Fees      Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HEAD F HAMPER J	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill requires an annual additional \$30 snowmobile registration fee, unless the registrant can show proof of membership in a snowmobile club in the State. It specifies that for a resident family residing in the same household the additional fee is \$30 for up to four snowmobiles. Lastly, it requires the transfer of \$20 collected from this additional fee to the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the transfer of \$10 collected from this additional fee to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-274)**

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 1298      An Act To Enhance Fish and Wildlife Laws      PUBLIC 9 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN D JACKSON T	OTP	