

# 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

snowmobile registration opportunities to nonresident snowmobile operators and to promote general snowmobile recreational activities in the State through regional state tourism organizations and a statewide organization with an interest in snowmobiling. It provides that failure to comply with the provision setting out the online notification process is not a violation of any law or rule of the department but that nothing in the provision relieves a person of the person's responsibilities under any law or rule regulating the ownership or operation of a snowmobile in the State.

It requires, as a condition of the three-consecutive day period during which a nonresident may operate an unregistered snowmobile in the State, use of the online notification process by the operator.

It also directs the Director of the Office of Tourism within the Department of Economic and Community Development to collaborate, within existing budgeted resources, with the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the production and distribution through regional state tourism organizations and a statewide organization with an interest in snowmobiling of promotional materials relating to seasonal nonresident snowmobile registration and general snowmobile recreational opportunities using the information collected by the notification process.

The law takes effect on January 1, 2020.

### **LD 1488 An Act To Allow Holders of Gold Star Family Registration Plates To Be Issued Complimentary Licenses To Hunt, Trap and Fish**

**PUBLIC 443**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PECTEAU J TIMBERLAKE J	OTP-AM	H-426

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.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-426)**

This amendment provides that the complimentary license to hunt, trap and fish made available under the bill to a person who holds a registration certificate and gold star family registration plates is available to only residents of the State and a lifetime license.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 443 allows a resident of the State that is 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 lifetime complimentary license to hunt, trap and fish, including permits, stamps and other permissions needed to hunt.

### **LD 1525 An Act To Require Insurance on Motorized Watercraft**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE M		

This bill prohibits the owner of a motorboat of more than 75 horsepower from operating or allowing operation of the motorboat in the inland or tidal waters of the State without insurance on the motorboat similar to the financial responsibility provisions regarding motor vehicles. The bill requires the operator of the motorboat to provide proof of insurance, which may be in an acceptable electronic format, to a law enforcement officer upon request or, if the

*Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

motorboat is in an accident, to all persons involved in the accident. An operator of a motorboat who fails to provide proof of insurance commits a civil penalty unless proof of insurance is produced before adjudication of the violation, and an owner who fails to insure a motorboat that is then involved in an accident commits a Class D 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 1551      An Act To Clarify Fishing Laws between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources as They Relate to Striped Bass in Inland Waters      PUBLIC 224**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NADEAU C DILL J	OTP-AM	H-308

This bill eliminates duplicative rulemaking by prohibiting the fishing or possession of striped bass taken from the inland waters of the State in violation of rules adopted by the Commissioner of Marine Resources.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-308)**

This amendment clarifies the language of the bill but preserves the bill's intent, which is to provide that fishing for or possession of striped bass taken from the inland waters of the State in violation of striped bass rules adopted by the Commissioner of Marine Resources is prohibited and is subject to the applicable penalties for violating the fishing rules of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 224 provides that fishing for or possession of striped bass taken from the inland waters of the State in violation of striped bass rules adopted by the Commissioner of Marine Resources is prohibited and is subject to the applicable penalties for violating the fishing rules of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

**LD 1579      An Act To Create a Limited Fish Stocking Permit      PUBLIC 263**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MASON R TIMBERLAKE J	OTP-AM	H-375

This bill allows a municipality to stock with fish an inland water of the municipality, subject to a determination by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Resource Management that the species of fish is appropriate to be stocked in that inland water and to the public notification requirements that apply when the bureau proposes to stock an inland water with fish.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-375)**

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to issue a limited permit to a local government. A limited permit allows a local government to introduce fish only into a great pond within the jurisdiction of the local government that was previously stocked by the department and in which stocking was suspended prior to January 1, 2019, and has not been resumed by the department due to inadequate public access. The permit allows the introduction of only the same species of fish that was stocked at the time the department suspended stocking. The permit allows only the introduction of fish obtained by the local government at its own expense from an in-state commercial facility that meets testing and health guidelines