

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
129<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL AND SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

November 2020

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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 1117 An Act To Encourage Turkey Hunting**

**ONTP**

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

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order H.P. 1322.

This bill eliminates the turkey hunting permit and fee and the requirement to tag wild turkeys at registration stations. A hunter is directed to inform the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at the conclusion of each turkey hunting season of how many wild turkeys the hunter harvested. The bill directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to amend the department's rules to increase the spring season bag limit to four male wild turkeys and the fall season bag limit to eight wild turkeys of eithersex.

**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 NADEAUC		

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill allows the commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish bear hunting and trapping season dates by rule. It reduces the cost of a resident bear hunting permit and a resident bear trapping permit from \$27 to \$10, and it also repeals the two-bear limit in statute and instead refers to the bag limit set in rule.

The bill, which had been voted but not yet reported out of committee, was carried over in committee to any special session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, S.P. 788.

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

**ONTP**

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

This bill was carried over in committee from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

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 motorboat is in an accident, to all persons involved in the accident. An operator of a motorboat who fails to provide

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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.

**LD 1787 An Act To Clarify and Enhance Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Laws**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DILL J	OTP-AM	S-315

The bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1322.

This bill makes several changes to the State's fish and wildlife enforcement laws. The bill:

1. Makes it illegal for nonviolent juvenile offenders and persons convicted of domestic violence to possess a firearm hunting license. It also prohibits a person convicted of a domestic violence offense from owning or possessing a crossbow, a muzzleloader or archery or airbow equipment;
2. Provides that a person is guilty of aggravated trafficking in a scheduled drug if the person is convicted of trafficking while in an area open to fishing for only persons under 16 years of age or complimentary fishing license holders;
3. Requires all edible meat from bear, deer and moose to be presented for registration with evidence of the animal's sex;
4. Clarifies that a person's hunting license will be revoked if the person is convicted of night hunting while in possession of a thermal imaging device;
5. Amends the definition of "owner" for the purpose of registration of a snowmobile, watercraft and all-terrain vehicle;
6. Provides for penalties for bag limit and possession limit violations for individual upland game species as established by the commissioner;
7. Clarifies the time limit to register a bear, deer, moose or wild turkey;
8. Clarifies that bear fat not attached to the meat can legally be used for personal or commercial use without a hide dealer's license;
9. Provides for restitution of expenses incurred as a result of scientific testing to enhance investigation procedures;
10. Clarifies that a person may not take or possess reptiles or amphibians from the wild for export, sale or commercial purposes;
11. Strengthens the prohibition of abuse of another person's property by removing reference to certain stated activities such as hunting, fishing or trapping to allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to enforce the law against persons who abuse another person's property but who may not be involved in an activity such as hunting, fishing or trapping; and