

# 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*

3. It provides consistency in the laws regulating the hunting or trapping of wild birds.
4. It changes the expiration date for a wildlife rehabilitation permit to December 31st of the second complete year after the date of issuance.
5. It updates the description of the boundary of the Beauchamp Sanctuary.
6. It clarifies that hunting is prohibited in the Megunticook Lake and Vicinity Sanctuary from April 1st to September 30th of each year.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (H-538)**

This amendment allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to prohibit or limit the feeding of deer, bear, moose and wild turkey if there is documented evidence of chronic wasting disease within 50 miles of the border of the State.

### **House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-560)**

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 355 does the following.

1. It amends the definition of "antlerless moose" to exclude moose with antlers that are shorter than their ears.
2. It allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to prohibit or limit the feeding of deer, bear, moose and wild turkey if there is documented evidence of chronic wasting disease within 50 miles of the border of the State or the commissioner has a reason to believe that the type or location of feed may create a public safety hazard or may have a detrimental effect on the wildlife.
3. It provides consistency in the laws regulating the hunting or trapping of wild birds.
4. It changes the expiration date for a wildlife rehabilitation permit to December 31st of the second complete year after the date of issuance.
5. It updates the description of the boundary of the Beauchamp Sanctuary.
6. It clarifies that hunting is prohibited in the Megunticook Lake and Vicinity Sanctuary from April 1st to September 30th of each year.

Public Law 2019, chapter 355 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 18, 2019.

**LD 1824**

### **An Act To Make Certain Snowmobile and Watercraft Laws Consistent with All-terrain Vehicle Laws**

**PUBLIC 452**

Sponsor(s)

DAVIS P

Committee Report

OTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill amends certain laws governing snowmobiles and watercraft to make them consistent with laws governing all-terrain vehicles. Specifically, this bill:

1. Extends to operators of snowmobiles and watercraft certain penalties that apply to violations applicable to

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

operation of all-terrain vehicles that result in the mandatory revocation of a license;

2. Updates the laws concerning operation of a recreational vehicle while under the influence to more closely mirror the laws governing operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence;
3. Extends the general prohibition against the fraudulent acquisition or possession of licenses and permits issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to also apply to registrations and repeals specific prohibitions that are therefore unnecessary;
4. Exempts from registration fees motorboats used for governmental purposes and owned and operated in the State by the Federal Government, the State or a political subdivision of the State;
5. Specifies that, for purposes of the laws governing recreational vehicles, a motor vehicle is not a snowmobile; and
6. Removes language that limits to on or adjacent to a snowmobile trail the location of a snowmobile collision that constitutes operating a snowmobile to endanger.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2019, chapter 452 amends certain laws governing snowmobiles and watercraft to make them consistent with laws governing all-terrain vehicles. Specifically, this law:

1. Extends to operators of snowmobiles and watercraft certain penalties that apply to violations applicable to operation of all-terrain vehicles that result in the mandatory revocation of a license;
2. Updates the laws concerning operation of a recreational vehicle while under the influence to more closely mirror the laws governing operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence;
3. Extends the general prohibition against the fraudulent acquisition or possession of licenses and permits issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to also apply to registrations and repeals specific prohibitions that are therefore unnecessary;
4. Exempts from registration fees motorboats used for governmental purposes and owned and operated in the State by the Federal Government, the State or a political subdivision of the State;
5. Specifies that, for purposes of the laws governing recreational vehicles, a motor vehicle is not a snowmobile; and
6. Removes language that limits to on or adjacent to a snowmobile trail the location of a snowmobile collision that constitutes operating a snowmobile to endanger.