

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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

December 2021

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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

operational techniques to allow for lower decibel levels, and appropriate training and equipment for State and municipal law enforcement officers.

- B. The departments, within existing resources, are directed to arrange for input from experts in airboat noise and collect local sound data related to airboat use on inland and coastal waters using SAE J1970, SAE J34 and SAE J2005 testing procedures.
- C. By January 15, 2022, the departments are required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife the findings and recommendations on airboat noise. After receiving the report, the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may report out a bill relating to airboats to the 130th Legislature.

### **LD 142 An Act To Give the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Rule-making Authority To Establish a Bear Season Framework and Bag Limits**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 100 does the following.

1. It requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish by rule an open season on hunting bear beginning no earlier than the 2nd Monday preceding September 1st and ending no later than November 30th annually.
2. It clarifies that the commissioner may adopt rules to set the dates when dogs may be used to hunt black bear during any portion of the open bear hunting season.
3. It provides that a person may not set bear bait earlier than 30 days before the first Monday preceding September 1st.
4. It reduces the fee for a resident bear permit from \$27 to \$10.
5. It requires the commissioner to adopt rules governing the number of bears that may be hunted and trapped in a season, which may not be more than one by trapping or two in total.
6. It establishes a daily bag limit of one bear by hunting.
7. It provides that, beginning January 1, 2022, to obtain a bear trapping permit, a person must either have successfully completed a bear trapping education course or have previously held a valid Maine bear trapping permit in any year prior to 2022.
8. It provides that a resident may hunt bear without a valid permit during the open firearm season on deer.

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9. It allows a person who holds a license authorizing hunting big game to obtain a bear trapping permit.
10. It provides that a bear hunting permit is required for each bear when the bag limit on bear is more than one.

Public Law 2021, chapter 100 takes effect January 1, 2022.

### **LD 199 An Act To Amend Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws and Related Provisions**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 54 does the following.

1. It defines "upland game species." It provides for the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to set a daily bag limit and possession limit for upland game species and makes violating these limits a Class E crime for which a fine of not less than \$200 plus \$50 for each animal taken in violation may be adjudged.
2. It allows the department to enforce the law prohibiting the abuse of another person's property against persons who abuse another person's property but who may not be involved in an activity such as hunting, fishing or trapping, as in current law. It allows a person found to have violated that law to be ordered to pay restitution to the landowner for damages.
3. It provides for the revocation of a hunting license of a person convicted of night hunting and found to have been in the possession of a thermal imaging device at the time of the offense.
4. It provides for the revocation of any license, permit or registration issued by the department, not just hunting and fishing licenses, of a person who is convicted of destroying, tearing down, defacing or otherwise damaging a property posting sign.
5. It prohibits domestic violence offenders and certain nonviolent juvenile offenders from obtaining or possessing any license or permit issued by the department that authorizes a person to hunt with a firearm.
6. It allows a person who has lawfully killed or trapped and registered a bear to sell, without a hide dealer's license, the fat not attached to the meat of that animal.
7. It clarifies that a person may not take or possess reptiles or amphibians from the wild for export, sale or commercial purposes.