

# 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

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.

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8. It specifies that a person may not keep bear, deer, moose or wild turkey without registering the animal for more than 18 hours after the animal was harvested.
9. It requires all the edible meat of a bear, deer or moose to be presented for registration along with evidence of the animal's sex. It also allows those animals to be dismembered for ease of transportation and allows the hunter to leave parts that are not of use away from public view.
10. It requires a hide dealer to keep a true and complete record of those buying and selling bear fat.
11. It allows a special hide dealer's license holder to commercially sell or barter the heads and untanned hides of bear that are butchered in the license holder's place of business.
12. It makes a special hide dealer's license valid for a full year, commencing January 1st, rather than a partial year, commencing August 1st.
13. It amends the definition of "owner," for the purpose of registration of a snowmobile, watercraft or ATV, to include a person having equitable interest in the snowmobile, watercraft or ATV, which entitles the person to possession of the vehicle.

### **LD 223 An Act To Clarify Maine's Fish and Wildlife Licensing and Registration Laws**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 411 requires payment of a \$50 reinstatement fee to reinstate a suspended or revoked license, permit or registration under the inland fisheries and wildlife laws resulting from a finding of civil contempt. It also increases the reinstatement fee for a license, permit or registration suspension for failure to pay child support from \$25 to \$50. The word "permit" is added to this section in order to be consistent with other places in statute. The \$50 reinstatement fee for all types of suspensions and revocations is deposited into the Landowner Relations Fund.

Public Law 2021, chapter 411 allows a nonresident junior trapper to purchase a trapping license at the resident junior rate and clarifies that a nonresident trapper of any age who is not a citizen of the United States may trap only beaver.

Public Law 2021, chapter 411 includes language in regard to the form and display of snowmobile registration numbers and stickers that is consistent with all-terrain vehicle registration requirements. It also provides that a snowmobile registered after May 1st and prior to July 1st has a registration that is valid for the upcoming winter and expires June 30th of the following year. Similar language changes are made to the law regarding all-terrain vehicle registration fees in order to be consistent with snowmobile registration requirements. It also changes a date from June 31st, which does not exist, to June 30th.