

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH 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

LD 349 Resolve, Directing an Examination of Issues Related to Operation of Watercraft on Waters of the State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 45 directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to examine issues related to the operation of watercraft, including personal watercraft, on the waters of the State, including methods of educating the public about current laws governing the operation of watercraft. The department is also directed to monitor whether the Town of Sweden votes to support banning personal watercraft on Keyes Pond. The department must report the department's findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The committee is authorized to report out a bill to the 130th Legislature related to the subject matter of the report, including relating to the operation of personal watercraft on Keyes Pond.

LD 361 An Act To Establish a Permanent Appointment of a Member of the Wabanaki Tribes to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 72 adds an 11th member to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council. This member must be a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State. The Governor appoints this member based on the joint recommendation of the tribal governments of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation. If these tribal governments do not make a unanimous joint recommendation, the Governor appoints a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State and rotates the appointment among members of each federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State.

LD 404 An Act To Preserve Deer Habitat

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 409 does the following.

1. It establishes preferential consideration under the Land for Maine's Future program for projects that conserve deer wintering areas identified by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and that satisfy other land management requirements.
2. It allows proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund to be used for the development of a management plan for a deer wintering area on lands acquired for that purpose using the Land for Maine's Future Fund, as long as the cost of the plan as well as any minor capital investments in the stewardship and management of that land does not exceed 5% of the appraised value of

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

130TH FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2021

Page 6 of 14

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

the property. A management plan may also apply to adjoining deer wintering areas in the same ownership or under the same management.

3. It directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to identify areas that are important to the conservation of deer in northern, eastern and western Maine, and authorizes the department to acquire these lands, which must be designated as wildlife management areas, and directs the department to ensure that appropriate deed restrictions are placed on the land acquired and to develop appropriate purchase and sale agreements to ensure that deer wintering areas on land to be acquired is preserved as deer wintering areas prior to purchase. Beginning January 15, 2023 and annually thereafter, the department is required to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters on the acquisition and management of deer wintering areas.
4. It allows the Maine Deer Management Fund to be used to acquire deer habitat.
5. It authorizes the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to prohibit or limit the feeding of deer, bear, moose or wild turkey as part of a plan to promote the use of deer wintering areas by deer.

Public Law 2021, chapter 409 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 8, 2021.

LD 547 An Act Regarding Nuisance Beavers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 60 provides that the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may at any time authorize a landowner, a person on behalf of the landowner or an agent of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to take or kill nuisance beaver.

Public Law 2021, chapter 60 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 25, 2021.

LD 569 An Act To Prohibit Hunting with a Bow on Land of Another Person within 100 Yards of a Building or Residence on That Land without Permission

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 74 prohibits the discharge of an arrow from a bow and arrow when on land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the permission of the owner of that building or residential dwelling or, in the owner's absence, of an adult occupant of that building or dwelling authorized to act on behalf of the owner. It also prohibits a person from causing an arrow from a bow and arrow to pass across the land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

130TH FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2021

Page 7 of 14