

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

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

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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.

LD 635 An Act Relating to Hunting with a Noise Suppression Device

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 112 does the following.

1. It repeals the law prohibiting the use of a noise suppression device when hunting without a noise suppression device permit.
2. It repeals the law relating to the use of noise suppression devices, including the permit requirement as well as the current enhanced penalties and mandatory license revocations that apply to committing hunting crimes while using a noise suppression device.
3. It creates a new provision providing for the suspension of a person's hunting license for at least three years if that person is convicted of any of the violations listed in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10902, subsection 6 and found to have been in possession of a firearm with a noise suppression device. The violations listed in Title 12, section 10902, subsection 6 are violations for which a mandatory license revocation of at least one year currently applies.

LD 770 Resolve, To Direct the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Examine Issues Related to Hunting Dogs and Civil Trespass

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 77 does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a stakeholder group to examine issues related to hunting dogs and civil trespass. The department must ensure that the stakeholder group is as broadly representative of interested parties and groups as possible and invite participation from at least the following: representatives of affected landowners and persons who use dogs in hunting and others with interest in or expertise on the subject matter of the examination. The department may include or involve the Landowners and Sportsmen Relations Advisory Board in the work of the stakeholder group.
2. It directs the department to report the findings and recommendations resulting from the examination to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 3, 2022. The committee may report out a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the 130th Legislature.