

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 943 An Act To Improve Turkey Tagging

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 121 does the following.

1. It exempts turkeys taken during the fall open season on hunting wild turkey from tagging and registration requirements.
2. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to determine the direct costs of and timeline required for implementing an electronic tagging system for wild turkey. The department is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 3, 2022 and the committee is authorized to report out a bill related to turkey tagging to the 130th Legislature.

LD 1012 An Act To Provide Funding for the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 435 provides \$75,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in each year of the biennium to support the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund program. Under the program, grants are made to various project categories, including for endangered and threatened species conservation. Wildlife rehabilitators may receive grants under this category.

LD 1031 An Act To Create an Administrative Review Process for Hunting Violations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 124 establishes a procedure for the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to take administrative action regarding civil trespass while hunting without first requiring a criminal conviction or civil adjudication. This administrative action may be initiated when the Game Warden Colonel determines, after consultation with the district attorney, that a person the Game Warden Colonel has probable cause to suspect has violated the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10657, the law prohibiting trespassing while hunting, will not be charged with that violation by the district attorney. The administrative proceedings include notice and an opportunity to be heard and allows the commissioner to impose administrative penalties including revocation of a license to hunt for up to three years. If the person is found to have committed civil trespass while hunting and does not hold a hunting license, the commissioner may refuse to issue a hunting license to that person for up to five years. The decision of the commissioner may be appealed to Superior Court.