

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2022

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

LD 1873 An Act Related to Airboats

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 585 extends the repeal date of the law governing airboat noise for one year, until September 30, 2023. The law requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources to reconvene the stakeholder group on airboat operation and noise levels convened pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 166. The law directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to provide a report to the Legislature by January 3, 2024 on the findings of the department and the stakeholder group. After receiving the report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters may report out a bill relating to airboats to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1951 An Act Related to Hunting Dogs and Civil Trespass

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 580 does the following.

1. It requires a person to obtain a permit to train a hunting dog on bear, fox or raccoon or to hunt bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon with a dog. It exempts from the permit requirement a person with a junior hunting license and persons hunting or training with a guide. It provides for penalties for failure to have a permit and provides that permit fees are deposited into the Landowner Relations Fund.
2. It requires a person training a dog in pursuit of a bear, fox or raccoon to have a collar on the dog with a functioning global positioning system tracker and a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of that dog.
3. It requires a person hunting with a dog in pursuit of a bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon to have a collar on the dog that has a functioning global positioning system tracker and adds foxes and raccoons to the list of wild animals a person may not hunt with a dog unless the dog has a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of the dog.
4. It limits hunting foxes or raccoons with dogs to not more than 6 dogs.
5. It prohibits certain types of trespass by a hunting dog. A person may not turn a hunting dog loose in pursuit of a bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon:
 - A. Onto the property of another if the property is posted or if the landowner has notified the dog handler that hunting dogs are not allowed on the property; or

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- B. In a manner that results in the hunting dog entering the property of another, if a hunting dog has been previously found on that property and any dog handler of the hunting dog has been notified in writing by a law enforcement officer within the previous 365 days that the landowner does not permit hunting dogs on the property.

LD 1992 An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Turkey

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 704 does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules allowing for the electronic registration of turkey beginning in 2023.
2. It does not require registration or tagging of turkey hunted in the fall 2022 season.
3. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by November 2, 2022 on additional statutory changes needed in order to facilitate the electronic tagging of turkey. It authorizes the committee to report out a bill related to electronic tagging to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1663 An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 656 does the following.

1. Beginning on January 1, 2024, it creates a mandatory boating safety and education course requirement for a person born on or after January 1, 1999 to operate a motorboat of more than 25 horsepower or equivalent on inland waters of the state.
2. Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires anyone born on or after January 1, 1999, who is operating a personal watercraft on inland waters of the state, to complete a boater safety and education course.
3. Beginning January 1, 2024, it prohibits a person born after 1999 from supervising a person under the age of 12 who operates a motorboat propelled by machinery of more than 10 horsepower or equivalent upon inland waters of the state unless that supervisor is at least 16 years of age and has completed a boater safety and education course.
4. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife convene a stakeholder group on boating safety and education. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to