

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</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**

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND  
SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS**

This *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* provides the disposition of all LDs and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Maine Legislature. Please note that all LDs and proposed amendments may be found through the Legislature’s webpage, and each includes a summary of what the bill or amendment proposed.

The *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* is arranged alphabetically by committee. Within each committee section is a subject index of all LDs considered by that committee as well as a digest of the LDs, arranged by LD number. Also included are enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed. Brief analyst notes on certain LDs are also included: a committee digest will indicate if additional notes are provided for an LD. These notes add information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this *Digest*; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance. A separate section of the *Digest* provides a digest of the relatively few LDs that were not referred to a committee or reported from a committee as a committee bill; enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed are provided. Finally, an appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

The final disposition of each LD is noted in the relevant summary digest and index. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER*..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor’s request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*..... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor’s veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature is Thursday, June 29, 2023 and Wednesday, October 25, 2023, respectively. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

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### **LD 131 An Act to Clarify and Correct Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 228 makes the following changes to sections of Title 12.

1. It eliminates provisions relating to the annual reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters on deer and moose management.
2. It renames the Species Management Education Fund the Fish and Wildlife Management Education Fund and allows funding to be used for education on the management of fish and wildlife and to communicate with the public about department programs. It also removes the requirement in current law that education provided under the fund must include information about how hunting and fishing help to manage specific species.
3. It renames the Black Bear Research Fund the Black Bear Research and Management Fund and modifies its purpose to allow the fund to be used for both research and management activities.
4. It removes the requirement that a person involved in a hunting incident or a watercraft, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle crash submit to a mandatory chemical test and removes references to that requirement.
5. It provides clarity on how a super pack licensee applies for an antlerless deer permit.
6. It exempts members of certain federally recognized Indian nations, bands or tribes from the requirement to complete a bear trapping education course.
7. It resolves a conflict in Title 12 regarding the cost of combination licenses.
8. It removes references to specific types of personal flotation devices.

### **LD 189 An Act to Include an Expanded Archery Permit in the Super Pack License Issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 49 makes the following changes to Maine's super pack hunting licenses.

1. It allows for the harvesting of six deer including three antlerless deer and one deer of either sex during the special archery season as determined by the commissioner.

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2. It increases the fee for a super pack license to \$207 for residents and \$182 for a person holding 2 or more lifetime licenses.

### **LD 221 An Act Regarding Airboat Noise**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 209 makes the following changes to the laws regarding airboat usage in Maine.

1. It extends to September 30, 2025 the prohibition on the operation of a motorboat that exceeds a noise level of 75 decibels between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. and 90 decibels between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m..
2. It reconvenes the stakeholder group on airboat noise issues and requires a report to be submitted by January 15, 2025 to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources and inland fisheries and wildlife matters that includes the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, including any recommended legislation. 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 132nd Legislature in 2025.

### **LD 296 An Act to Ensure Municipalities Receive a Higher Percentage of All-terrain Vehicle Registration Fees to Cover Increased Expenses**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 213 increases the fee an agent may charge for processing a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle registration or renewal registration to not more than \$5.

### **LD 379 Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Study the Effects of Wake Boats on Shoreline Property and the Environment**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 33 requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a stakeholder group to review completed studies relating to wake boats and their effects on shoreline property and the environment paying special attention to issues relating to the types of boats used, the appropriate distance from the shoreline and depth of the body of water, enforcement mechanisms, including fines, and the definition used for "wake boat."