

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST 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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**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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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."

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The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than February 1, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to wake boats and their effects on shoreline property and the environment to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 438 An Act to Clarify and Amend the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Licensing Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 308 makes the following changes to the laws governing licensing and registration by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

1. It provides that all members of the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Guides except state employees are entitled to receive compensation and increases the daily rate of compensation for examiners of the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Guides and the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Taxidermists from \$50 per day to \$150 per day and per diem.
2. It increases the guide examination fee from \$100 to \$125 and the taxidermist application fee from \$50 to \$125 and clarifies that the taxidermist application fee also applies to examinations for general classification.
3. It repeals the provision of law that allows a guide applicant to take a 2nd test for free.
4. It clarifies that the owner of a snowmobile is not required to register that snowmobile if it is operated on land that the owner lives on or land that the snowmobile operator owns or leases.
5. It increases the fee for a pheasant hunting permit from \$18 to \$29 and increases the amount that is retained by the authorized agent of the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from \$1 to \$2.

LD 481 An Act to Allow the Deferral of a Moose Hunting Permit If More than One Permit Is Awarded Within the Same Household

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 127 allows a holder of a valid moose hunting permit to defer the permit to the next hunting season if another person in the permit holder's household also holds a valid moose hunting permit for the same hunting season.