

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
MARINE RESOURCES**

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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 581 An Act to Assist Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 98 waives the application fee for limited-purpose aquaculture licenses issued to municipal shellfish management committees. It also waives the application fee for those licenses issued to municipal officers for municipal projects and provides that those fees are waived only if the organisms cultured are not used for commercial purposes. It also provides that the applicants who are exempt from those fees are also exempt from certain requirements to complete an educational course.

LD 817 An Act to Allow the Crew Member of a Holder of an Elver Fishing License to Empty an Elver Fyke Net

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 81 permits an unlicensed crew member of a holder of an elver fishing license to empty an elver fyke net.

Public Law 2023, chapter 81 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 15, 2023.

LD 920 An Act Regarding Temporary Transfers of Elver Fishing Quotas for Medical Reasons

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 180 allows for an elver fishing license holder to request a temporary medical transfer of that license holder's quota at any point during the year and that the license holder receiving the transferred quota receives the amount of the transferor's quota that remains at the time the request is made. It also provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may adopt rules that allow for a transferor to choose whether the transferor retains the income and tax burden from the transferor's transferred quota or whether it is transferred to the license holder receiving the quota.

LD 1444 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility Restrictions for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 169 provides that an individual who is otherwise eligible for a commercial menhaden fishing license in 2023 is not eligible for a 2nd commercial menhaden fishing license in 2023 if the individual previously held a 2nd license in 2022. It also allows the Commissioner of Marine Resources to establish by rule a limited entry system under which an

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individual who did not hold a commercial menhaden fishing license in the previous calendar year may become eligible to obtain a license.

Public Law 2023, chapter 169 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 15, 2023.

LD 1552 An Act to Create the Lobster Innovation Fund

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 466 establishes the Lobster Innovation Fund to provide stipends to holders of Class I, Class II or Class III lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies. It provides a one-time appropriation of \$50,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 and a base allocation for outside funding.

LD 1951 An Act Regarding Marine Finfish Aquaculture

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 268 provides that a lease may not be issued for aquaculture of salmonid species if the proposed stocking density of pens in the lease area exceeds 30 kilograms per cubic meter.