

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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LD 1319 An Act to Exempt Certain Boat Operators from Having to Become Maine Guides

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 226 makes the following changes to the laws governing the operation of a watercraft without a guide license as an employee of a seasonal business engaged in instruction in recreational activities.

1. It allows a person who has completed an approved boater safety education course and is certified in first aid to operate a watercraft without a guide license as an employee of a seasonal business engaged in instruction in recreational activities during the 2023 recreational boating season.
2. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a stakeholder group to examine the guide requirements for recreational sports.
3. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than January 15, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to recreational guide requirements to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Public Law 2023, chapter 226 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 20, 2023.

LD 1525 An Act to Allow for a Suspension of Licenses and Permits Issued Under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws for a Deferred Disposition or Written Filing Agreement

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 265 allows for the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to suspend any license issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for a deferred disposition or when there is a written filing agreement with the State.

LD 1807 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Report on Boater Safety Education

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 206 makes the following changes to the laws governing boater safety education requirements in Maine.

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1. It defines recreational boating as being primarily used for pleasure and excludes from that definition the use of motorboats carrying passengers for hire.
2. It applies the boater safety and education course requirement for inland waters to territorial waters defined by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6001.
3. It adds exemptions to the requirement of a boater safety and education course to possessors of valid or expired United States merchant marine licensure documents, persons test driving a motorboat as part of a possible purchase, persons renting a motorboat who have completed a temporary boater safety course and noncitizens who arrive by sea and are temporarily using Maine's territorial waters.

LD 1826 An Act to Designate Deer Wintering Areas Under the Jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks and Lands

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 187 allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to designate, pursuant to a habitat management agreement with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, deer wintering areas on parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the bureau that are high-quality deer wintering habitat with a documented history of significant use by deer. It requires the bureau to manage the designated area with deer conservation as the highest management priority and permits the bureau to manage the designated area to benefit other wildlife species that rely on mature softwood forests, and the designated areas are eligible for funding from the Maine Deer Management Fund. It also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to survey public lands in the northern, eastern and western regions of the State for unmapped deer wintering areas for inclusion as designated deer wintering areas by the bureau.

LD 1868 Resolve, to Name 2 Brooks in the Town of Orient

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 48 names two brooks in the town of Orient.

1. The brook in the Town of Orient, Aroostook County, that flows under Boundary 7 Road and into MacAllister Cove of Grand Lake is named the Calais Bound Brook.
2. The brook in the Town of Orient, Aroostook County, that flows under Boundary 9 Road and Route 1, towards Skagrock Brook is named the Bangor Bound Brook.