

# 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.

**LD 1879 An Act to Align Laws Governing Crossbow Hunting with Those Governing Archery Hunting**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 239 makes the following changes to the laws governing the use of crossbow and archery hunting.

1. It defines "archery equipment" to mean a bow or crossbow.
2. It provides that a person commits a Class E crime if while within the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands the person discharges archery equipment within 300 feet of any picnic area, designated camping area, parking area, building, shelter or boat launching site or in violation of park rules or in areas closed to hunting by rule, law or ordinance.
3. It changes references in the hunting laws to "bow and arrow" and "bow and arrow or crossbow" to "archery equipment."
4. It provides that except as provided in the laws governing the muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season, a person may hunt any wild bird or wild animal with archery equipment during any open season on that bird or animal if the person holds a valid archery hunting license. It repeals the laws governing open seasons for hunting with a crossbow, issuance of crossbow permits and crossbow permits and fees.
5. It provides that beginning January 1, 2024, a person who previously held a crossbow permit is eligible to obtain an archery hunting license.
6. It adds instruction on all types of archery equipment to the archery hunting education program.
7. It removes the discharge of a crossbow within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling without the permission of the owner from the laws governing prohibited discharges and allows the discharge of a crossbow on a landowner's own land for any purpose, including target practice and hunting.
8. It provides that a person may not discharge an arrow or bolt from archery equipment when on land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the permission of the owner of that building or residential dwelling or cause an arrow or bolt from archery equipment to pass across the land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the permission of the owner of that building or residential dwelling.
9. It clarifies the laws governing hunting or shooting from motor vehicles.

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10. It specifies that there is a continual closed season on deer on the Cranberry Isles in Hancock County, except that a person may hunt deer on the Cranberry Isles with a shotgun or bow in accordance with applicable laws and rules.
11. It provides that a person may not hunt wild hares or rabbits in any manner except by the ordinary method of shooting with guns, archery equipment or by falconry.
12. It provides that a person may take suckers by the use of a hand spear, by archery equipment or by snagging.
13. It repeals the laws governing the crossbow hunting education program.
14. It removes references to crossbows from the archery hunter education requirements.