



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 927

H.P. 682

House of Representatives, February 21, 2019

An Act To Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ACKLEY of Monmouth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FAY of Raymond, RISEMAN of Harrison, TUCKER of Brunswick.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the boating season begins in the State prior to the statutory adjournment
4 date; and

5 **Whereas,** this Act is necessary to protect Maine's water bodies from invasive
6 aquatic plants; and

7 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
8 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
9 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
10 therefore,

11 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

12 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §419-C, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

13 **1-A. Draining of vessels and equipment.** When removing a vessel from an inland
14 water body, and prior to transport away from the area where the vessel left the water, a
15 person shall:

16 A. Drain the vessel, trailer and other equipment that holds water, including live
17 wells, ballast tanks and bilges; and

18 B. Remove or open drain plugs, bailers, valves and other devices to drain the water
19 from the live wells, ballast tanks and bilges.

20 For the purposes of this subsection, "vessel" has the same meaning as defined in section
21 542, subsection 11.

22 Nothing in this subsection allows a person to directly or indirectly discharge pollutants
23 into waters of the State. This subsection does not apply to emergency response vessels
24 and their related equipment.

25 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
26 legislation takes effect when approved.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill requires a person when removing a vessel from an inland water body to
29 drain the vessel and other equipment and to remove or open drain plugs, bailers, valves
30 and other devices to drain the water before that vessel is transported. It exempts
31 emergency response vessels from these requirements.