



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 958

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H.P. 605

House of Representatives, March 2, 2023

**An Act to Expand Protections to Maine's Loons from Lead  
Poisoning by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead  
Jigs**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.  
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and  
Representatives: DILL of Old Town, DOUDERA of Camden, FAY of Raymond, LANDRY of  
Farmington, MASON of Lisbon, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: BLACK of Franklin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12663-B**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 372, §2, is amended to read:

3 **§12663-B. Unlawful sale of lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Bare lead jig" means an unpainted lead jig that contains lead and that:

7 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

8 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

9 B. "Lead sinker" means a device that contains lead that is designed to be attached to a  
10 fishing line and intended to sink the line and that:

11 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

12 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

13 "Lead sinker" does not include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig  
14 heads.

15 C. "Painted lead jig" means a painted lead jig that contains lead and that:

16 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

17 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

18 **2. Sale of lead sinker ~~or~~, bare lead jig or painted lead jig.** This subsection governs  
19 the sale of lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs.

20 A. A person may not:

21 (1) Sell a lead sinker; ~~or~~

22 (2) Beginning September 1, 2016, sell a bare lead jig; ~~or~~

23 (3) Beginning September 1, 2024, sell a painted lead jig.

24 B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of  
25 not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

26 C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
27 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
28 commits a Class E crime.

29 **3. Offer lead sinker ~~or~~, bare lead jig or painted lead jig for sale.** This subsection  
30 governs offering lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs for sale.

31 A. A person may not:

32 (1) Offer for sale a lead sinker; ~~or~~

33 (2) Beginning September 1, 2016, offer for sale a bare lead jig; ~~or~~

34 (3) Beginning September 1, 2024, offer for sale a painted lead jig.

35 B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of  
36 not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

1 C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
2 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
3 commits a Class E crime.

4 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12664**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 372, §3, is amended to read:

5 **§12664. Unlawful use of lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs and painted lead jigs**

6 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
7 following terms have the following meanings.

8 A. "Bare lead jig" means an unpainted lead jig that contains lead and that:

9 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

10 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

11 B. "Lead sinker" means a device that contains lead that is designed to be attached to a  
12 fishing line and intended to sink the line and that:

13 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

14 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

15 "Lead sinker" does not include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig  
16 heads.

17 C. "Painted lead jig" means a painted lead jig that contains lead and that:

18 (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

19 (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

20 **2. Unlawful use.** This subsection governs the use of lead sinkers ~~and~~, bare lead jigs  
21 and painted lead jigs.

22 A. A person may not:

23 (1) Use a lead sinker; ~~or~~

24 (2) Beginning September 1, 2017, use a bare lead jig; or

25 (3) Beginning September 1, 2026, use a painted lead jig.

26 B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of  
27 not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

28 C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
29 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
30 commits a Class E crime.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill makes it illegal to sell or offer for sale painted lead jigs weighing one ounce  
33 or less or measuring 2 1/2 inches or less in length beginning September 1, 2024 and illegal  
34 to use them beginning September 1, 2026.