



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

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Legislative Document

No. 2215

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H.P. 1494

House of Representatives, February 24, 2026

### An Act Relating to Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures

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Reported by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick for the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Public Law 2025, chapter 378, section 13.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§3-A, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §10, is  
3 amended to read:

4 B. Meets all applicable operating visibility requirements under 46 Code of Federal  
5 Regulations, Section 144.905. The watercraft must include a position from which its  
6 operator is afforded unobstructed forward visibility to each side of the centerline for at  
7 least 70 degrees from the operator's position and is afforded unobstructed lateral  
8 visibility to each side of the centerline at least 90 degrees from the operator's position  
9 standards related to the field of vision from the helm position as recommended by the  
10 American Boat and Yacht Council or its successor organization;

11 **Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended  
12 to read:

13 **1. Abandoned nonwater-dependent floating structure.** "Abandoned nonwater-  
14 dependent floating structure" means a nonwater-dependent floating structure that has been  
15 left in, on or over ~~internal~~ the waters of this State for more than 24 hours without intention  
16 of removal by the owner, as determined by the primary enforcement authority.

17 **Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is repealed.

18 **Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§8**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is repealed.

19 **Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§11**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended  
20 to read:

21 **11. Nonwater-dependent uses.** "Nonwater-dependent uses" means those uses that  
22 can function in a location other than on the surface waters of ~~the~~ this State and that do not  
23 require, for their primary purpose, location on submerged lands or direct access to inland  
24 waters or ~~eastal~~ territorial waters.

25 **Sec. 6. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§11-A** is enacted to read:

26 **11-A. Territorial waters.** "Territorial waters" has the same meaning as in Title 12,  
27 section 6001, subsection 48-B.

28 **Sec. 7. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§13** is enacted to read:

29 **13. Waters of this State.** "Waters of this State" has the same meaning as in Title 12,  
30 section 13001, subsection 30.

31 **Sec. 8. 38 MRSA §3302, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended  
32 to read:

33 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person may not place or use a nonwater-  
34 dependent floating structure in, on or over ~~internal~~ the waters of this State.

35 **Sec. 9. 38 MRSA §3303, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended  
36 to read:

37 **2. Swimming structures.** Any dock, wharf or swimming and diving float that is used  
38 as a floating structure for swimming or diving or for the temporary tie-off of watercraft, is  
39 placed on ~~internal~~ the waters of the this State and is temporarily or permanently anchored  
40 to the bottom of those waters;



1 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the homemade watercraft must meet all  
2 applicable operating visibility standards related to the field of vision from the helm position  
3 as recommended by the American Boat and Yacht Council or its successor organization.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**



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LD 2215

LR 3047(01)

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### Fiscal Impact for a Committee Bill

**Committee: Not Referred**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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### Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.