

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1826

H.P. 1359

House of Representatives, December 17, 2021

An Act To Create a Subcommittee of the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species To Recommend Ways To Reduce the Threat of Further Infestations

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 15, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield. Cosponsored by Representative: WARREN of Hallowell.

1 2	Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
3 4	Whereas, the increasing presence of invasive aquatic plants in lakes in this State is an issue of immediate concern; and
5 6 7	Whereas, ensuring that the subcommittee of the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species can begin meeting before and during the summer months will allow it to observe and respond more readily to invasive aquatic plants; and
8 9 10 11	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
12	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
13	Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1871, sub-§7 is enacted to read:
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	7. Subcommittee. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall establish a subcommittee of task force members and persons with relevant experience or expertise designated by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee to make findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, in accordance with this subsection. Beginning December 15, 2022, and biennially thereafter, the subcommittee shall submit a report with its findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the department and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters regarding the following:
22 23 24	A. Methods to expedite and improve the process for treating lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants with newly developed herbicide treatments or vegetation removal processes;
25 26	B. Methods to expedite and improve restrictions limiting the use of watercraft on areas of lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants;
27 28 29	C. The feasibility of requiring inspections of watercraft put into or taken out of lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants or lakes identified by the department to be at risk of infestation; and
30 31 32	D. The permit requirements for recreational and sporting events held on lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants or lakes identified by the department to be at risk of infestation.
33 34 35	The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters may report out legislation related to the biennial report to any legislative session.
36 37	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.
38	SUMMARY
39 40	This bill directs the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to establish a subcommittee of members of the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and

Nuisance Species and other persons with relevant experience or expertise in order to make findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, regarding the treatment and protection of lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants or lakes at risk of infestation. Beginning December 15, 2022, the task force is required to report biennially to the department and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters. The committee is authorized to report out legislation relating to the report to any legislative session.