

**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

June 2024

**STAFF:**

ANNE DAVISON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. DAVID LAFOUNTAIN, CHAIR  
SEN. GLENN "CHIP" CURRY  
SEN. RUSSELL BLACK

REP. H. SCOTT LANDRY, JR. CHAIR  
REP. JAMES F. DILL  
REP. CHERYL A. GOLEK  
REP. SALLY JEANE CLUCHEY  
REP. ALLISON HEPLER  
REP. RICHARD G. MASON  
REP. STEPHEN J. WOOD  
REP. GARY A. DRINKWATER  
REP. DAVID WOODSOME  
REP. JAMES E. THORNE



# *Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

## **SUBJECT INDEX**

### **All-terrain Vehicles, Snowmobiles and Watercraft**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2272	An Act Related to Airboats and Airboat Noise Limits	PUBLIC 583
	LD 2276	An Act to Increase Funding for the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the ATV Recreational Management Fund	PUBLIC 668
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 977	Resolve, to Study the Gasoline Tax Allocations for Nonhighway Recreational Vehicles and Make Recommendations for Changes	ONTP

### **Antlerless Deer Permits**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 614	An Act to Reduce Conflicts Between Landowners and Deer and Add an Additional Youth Deer Hunting Day	PUBLIC 593
----------------	--------	---	------------

### **Boating**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2284	An Act to Implement Recommendations in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Report on Wake Boats	PUBLIC 611
----------------	---------	---	------------

### **Firearms**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 629	An Act to Improve, Protect and Defend the Individual Civil Right to Bear Arms Through Exemption of Firearms and Ammunition from Taxation	ONTP
--------------------	--------	--	------

### **Hunting**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2216	An Act to Amend the Start Date of the September Upland Game Season	PUBLIC 530
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 2194	An Act to Clarify When a Wounded Game Animal May Be Dispatched by an Authorized Licensed Guide	ONTP

### **Invasive Aquatic Species**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1049	Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to Address Aquatic Invasive Species	RESOLVE 148
	LD 1342	An Act to Increase Funding for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Aquatic Species	PUBLIC 612
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 2141	An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State	CARRIED OVER

### **Licenses and Permits**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 163	An Act to Increase Communication Between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Lifetime License Holders by Requiring Free License Renewals Under Certain Circumstances	Minority (ONTP) Report
--------------------	--------	--	------------------------

### **Moose Hunting**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2052	An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses	PUBLIC 526
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 795	An Act to Clarify Requirements for Moose Hunting Permittees	ONTP

### **Wildlife Management**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1919	An Act to Designate a State Wildlife Sanctuary at Blue Hill Falls	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310
--------------------	---------	---	--

DIGEST OF BILLS  
131ST LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2024

**Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law Ch		Analyst Note?
IFW	163	An Act to Increase Communication Between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Lifetime License Holders by Requiring Free License Renewals Under Certain Circumstances	OTP-AM/ONTP	3/7/2024	Accepted Minority (ONTP) Report			
IFW	614	An Act to Reduce Conflicts Between Landowners and Deer and Add an Additional Youth Deer Hunting Day	OTP-AM	3/22/2024	Enacted	PL	593	
IFW	629	An Act to Improve, Protect and Defend the Individual Civil Right to Bear Arms Through Exemption of Firearms and Ammunition from Taxation	ONTP	2/28/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
IFW	795	An Act to Clarify Requirements for Moose Hunting Permittees	ONTP	2/1/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
IFW	977	Resolve, to Study the Gasoline Tax Allocations for Nonhighway Recreational Vehicles and Make Recommendations for Changes	ONTP	3/13/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
IFW	1049	Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to Address Aquatic Invasive Species	OTP-AM/ONTP	3/7/2024	Finally Passed	RESLV	148	
IFW	1342	An Act to Increase Funding for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Aquatic Species	OTP-AM	3/22/2024	Enacted	PL	612	
IFW	1919	An Act to Designate a State Wildlife Sanctuary at Blue Hill Falls	LTW	1/4/2024	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			

DIGEST OF BILLS  
131ST LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2024

Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law Ch		Analyst Note?
						Law	Ch	
IFW	2052	An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses	OTP	2/15/2024	Enacted	PL	526	
IFW	2141	An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State	OTP-AM/ONTP	2/26/2024				
IFW	2194	An Act to Clarify When a Wounded Game Animal May Be Dispatched by an Authorized Licensed Guide	ONTP	2/29/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
IFW	2216	An Act to Amend the Start Date of the September Upland Game Season	OTP		Enacted	PL	530	
IFW	2272	An Act Related to Airboats and Airboat Noise Limits	OTP	3/20/2024	Emergency Enacted	PL	583	
IFW	2276	An Act to Increase Funding for the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the ATV Recreational Management Fund	OTP		Enacted	PL	668	
IFW	2284	An Act to Implement Recommendations in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Report on Wake Boats	OTP		Enacted	PL	611	

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

### **LD 614 An Act to Reduce Conflicts Between Landowners and Deer and Add an Additional Youth Deer Hunting Day**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 593 makes the following changes related to the laws administered by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

1. It requires that funds from the Maine Deer Management Fund, within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, be used to help reduce conflicts between landowners and deer and directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to add a checkoff option on the department's online licensing system that allows a person to donate money for landowner-deer conflict prevention and management.
2. It removes the provision that \$2 of each deer registration fee deposition in the Maine Deer Management Fund be used for predator control and deer habitat purposes and instead provides that this money may be used to assist landowners with the prevention or management of deer conflicts.
3. It requires that revenue deposited in the Maine Deer Management Fund from antlerless deer permit fees, minus administrative costs, must be used for predator control purposes or to acquire or manage deer habitat.
4. It extends the youth deer hunting period from one day to two days and establishes that the period takes place on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Saturday designated as an open day for residents of the State.
5. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, by February 1, 2027, to provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters on the changes to youth deer hunting and gives the committee the authority to report out a bill based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

### **LD 1049 Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to Address Aquatic Invasive Species**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 148 directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources to enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish a process to plan for actions to control and prevent further spread of aquatic invasive species as fish passages are improved and fish barriers are removed statewide. The resolve directs the departments to include a requirement in the memorandum that the memorandum be updated at least every five years and that the departments provide notice to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters any time the

## **JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

memorandum is reviewed and updated. The resolve also directs the departments to include a requirement in the memorandum that if changes are planned that reduce commitments outlined in the memorandum to control and prevent the further spread of aquatic invasive species at the dam on the Penobscot River in the Town of Medway or the dam on the Piscataquis River at Brown's Mill in the Town of Dover-Foxcroft, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters must be notified in writing prior to the changes being implemented.

### **LD 1342 An Act to Increase Funding for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Aquatic Species**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 612 increases the fees for new or renewal certificates of number for resident motorboats and personal watercraft and the fees for lake and river protection stickers for all motorboats and personal watercraft not registered in the State and for seaplanes operating on inland waters of the State. Beginning January 1, 2025, the fees for certificates of number are increased by \$10 and the fees for lake and river protection stickers are increased by \$15 and, beginning January 1, 2028, the fees are increased by an additional \$10 for certificates of number and by an additional \$15 for lake and river protection stickers.

Public Law 2023, chapter 612 also makes a change to how fees are allocated so that, beginning January 1, 2025, 70% of fees are credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund, rather than 80% as in current law, and 30% of fees, rather than 20% as in current law, are credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund.

### **LD 2052 An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 526 increases from two to five the number of moose hunting permits that may be issued to nonprofit organizations that provide hunting and fishing adventures to children with life-threatening, critical or terminal illnesses and specifies that at least three of the permits must be issued to an organization based in the State and given to children who are residents of the State.



## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

### **LD 2216 An Act to Amend the Start Date of the September Upland Game Season**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 530 provides that, beginning January 1, 2025, the open season on upland game must include the last Saturday in September but need not start on the last Saturday in September as in current law.

### **LD 2272 An Act Related to Airboats and Airboat Noise Limits**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 583 defines “airboat” and enacts the following provisions establishing requirements for the operation of airboats.

1. It prohibits a person from operating an airboat if the noise level of the airboat exceeds 90 decibels.
2. It prohibits a person from operating an airboat between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. if the noise level of the airboat exceeds 75 decibels, except to the extent necessary to achieve headway speed when leaving a boat launch or to move the airboat from a stationary position on a tidal flat.
3. It prohibits a person from operating an airboat between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. if the noise level of the airboat exceeds 90 decibels, except to the extent necessary to achieve headway speed when leaving a boat launch or to move the airboat from a stationary position on a tidal flat.

Public Law 2023, chapter 583 also outlines the penalties for violating these provisions and provides exceptions for the operation of an airboat by certain law enforcement officers.

Public Law 2023, chapter 583 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 28, 2024.

### **LD 2276 An Act to Increase Funding for the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the ATV Recreational Management Fund**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 668 makes several changes to the gasoline tax allocation to provide additional funding to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands’ Snowmobile Trail Fund and ATV Recreational Management Fund.

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

### **LD 2284 An Act to Implement Recommendations in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s Report on Wake Boats**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 611 makes the following changes to implement recommendations in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s report on wake boats.

1. It defines “wakesurfing activity.”
2. It requires that information related to boater safety and education courses be provided at the time of purchase of a motorboat from a dealer in the State.
3. It prohibits a person from operating a motorboat in less than 15 feet of water or within 300 feet of the shoreline when the motorboat is engaged in wakesurfing activity.
4. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to develop an outreach program to provide boater safety and education to persons engaged in wakesurfing activities and to submit a report focused on wake boats and wakesurfing activities in the State to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters no later than February 1, 2027. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on this report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.