



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1532

S.P. 616

In Senate, April 8, 2025

An Act to Expand the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Outdoor Education Programs to Schools and Communities

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senator: GUERIN of Penobscot, Representatives: MASON of Lisbon, WOOD of Greene, WOODSOME of Waterboro.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10108, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Satellite sites; collaboration with Department of Education. The department may conduct a program under this section in a location owned by a 3rd party through a lease or partnership with the 3rd party. The commissioner may collaborate with the Department of Education in designing a curriculum for a program under this section that qualifies as instruction under Title 20-A, section 4732 and engaging with a secondary school to participate in the program. A secondary school may elect to participate in the program. If a secondary school participates in a program under this subsection, the program may be conducted in whole or in part in a location under this subsection or in whole or in part at the secondary school or at a facility of the school administrative unit in which the secondary school is located. A student under Title 20-A, section 5001-A, subsection 3, paragraph A and a member of the public may attend a program approved for secondary school instruction under this subsection.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4732 is enacted to read:

§4732. Outdoor education programs

A secondary school may provide instruction in outdoor education under Title 12, section 10108 in collaboration with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Sec. 3. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to conduct programs at diverse locations in State. By January 1, 2026, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall secure a minimum of 3 locations in geographically diverse areas of the State to conduct a program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10108, subsection 13. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall collaborate with the Department of Education to develop a curriculum for one or more programs under Title 20-A, section 4732 to be conducted at the locations identified under this section and engage with secondary schools to participate in the program or programs as soon as practicable in calendar year 2026.

Sec. 4. Report. By November 4, 2026, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall submit a report on the securing of and the suitability of locations in which programs are held and the effectiveness of the collaboration with the Department of Education and secondary schools under section 3, along with any recommended legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters, which may report out legislation based upon the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to conduct the department's educational programs at locations owned by 3rd parties through leases or partnerships with the 3rd parties. The bill allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to collaborate with the Department of Education to develop a curriculum for a program to allow the program to count as secondary school instruction. A secondary school may elect to participate in the program, which may be held in whole or in part at the 3rd-party location or the secondary school or a school administrative unit facility. Members of

1 the public and homeschoolers may attend the programs. The bill directs the Department of
2 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to secure at least 3 locations in geographically diverse areas
3 of the State by January 1, 2026 and to develop a curriculum for one or more programs to
4 be conducted at the locations as soon as practicable in 2026.