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Date: (Filing No. H-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 41, L.D. 77, “An Act to Stabilize and Sustainably Fund the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries and Hatcheries Division by Increasing the Inland Fishing License Fees and Establishing the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Stabilize and Sustainably Fund the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fisheries and Hatcheries Division by Increasing the Inland Fishing License Fees and Establishing the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

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

13. Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program. The Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program, referred to in this subsection as “the program,” is established within the department's fisheries and hatcheries division.

A. The program must:

(1) Prioritize native inland fish conservation and the research, management and enhancement of the State's native fish, including but not limited to those identified by the department as species of greatest conservation need, brook trout, lake whitefish, arctic charr and lake trout;

(2) Identify and implement actions to enhance native fish production and stocking, including assessment of native fish production programs; and

(3) Continue to conserve, protect and enhance the State's sport fish fisheries.

B. To the extent that resources allow, the program must also support and incorporate the following elements:

1 (1) The design and implementation of regional and statewide fisheries research
2 programs to conserve the State's native inland and sport fish fisheries, ensuring the
3 long-term sustainability and health of the State's fisheries;

4 (2) Investment in new technology, equipment and training programs to enhance
5 the success and effectiveness of the program;

6 (3) Effective communication regarding ongoing program actions, success and
7 collaboration;

8 (4) The establishment of collaborative partnerships to engage organizations,
9 communities and companies representing conservation groups, anglers, land trusts
10 and other organizations involved in outdoor recreation in implementing and
11 publicizing the program; and

12 (5) Engagement with representatives of various agencies, anglers and nonprofit
13 organizations to enhance and restore the State's native fisheries habitat and
14 populations.

15 C. The commissioner may accept money, goods or services donated to the department
16 for the program. Money accepted by the commissioner under this subsection must be
17 deposited into the fisheries and hatcheries division dedicated account.

18 D. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall report no later than
19 February 1st annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
20 jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters regarding program activities,
21 emphasizing the work being done to conserve, research, manage and enhance the
22 State's native inland fish populations and including a summary of expenditures and
23 their allocation.

24 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10252**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended by c.
25 655, Pt. B, §51 and affected by §422, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

26 **§10252. Fish hatchery maintenance fund**

27 **1. Fund established.** The fish hatchery maintenance fund, referred to in this section
28 as "the fund," is established in the department as a nonlapsing fund to be used by the
29 commissioner to fund or assist in funding engineering designs, statewide facilities
30 assessments and maintenance, repair and capital improvements at fish hatcheries and
31 feeding stations owned by the State. The fund may be used for overtime personnel services
32 costs when overtime for fish stocking and other hatchery-related work is operationally
33 required. Additionally, the fund may support the design, construction and operation of
34 additional state fish hatcheries that support the mission of the department, as approved by
35 the Legislature. The fund may not be used to fund the general operating costs of an existing
36 fish hatchery.

37 **2. Funding.** Notwithstanding section 10801, subsection 4, \$2 from each fishing
38 license sold must be deposited into the fund. Additionally, money deposited pursuant to
39 Title 29-A, section 456-C, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (1) must also be
40 credited to the fund. The commissioner may accept and deposit into the fund any monetary
41 gifts, donations or other contributions from public or private sources and must use that
42 money for the purposes specified in subsection 1.

1 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶D**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c.
2 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

3 D. A resident combination hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48 and permits hunting
4 of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3.

5 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶E**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c.
6 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

7 E. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48 and permits
8 hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3.

9 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶J**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c.
10 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

11 J. A nonresident combination hunting and fishing license is ~~\$150~~ \$169.

12 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§7, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 245, §3, is
13 further amended to read:

14 B. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48;

15 **Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §11109-A, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 49, §2 and
16 affected by §3, is further amended to read:

17 **5. Fee.** The fee for a super pack license is ~~\$207~~ \$212 for residents and ~~\$182~~ \$187 for
18 a person holding 2 or more lifetime licenses.

19 **Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §12501, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 228, §§11 and 12,
20 is further amended to read:

21 **6. Schedule of fees.** The fees for fishing licenses are as follows.

22 A. A resident fishing license is ~~\$25~~ \$30.

23 B. A resident combination hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48.

24 C. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is ~~\$43~~ \$48.

25 E. A 3-day fishing license for a resident or nonresident, valid for the 72-hour period
26 specified on the license, is ~~\$23~~ \$30.

27 F. A nonresident 7-day fishing license, valid for 7 days from date indicated on license,
28 is ~~\$43~~ \$62.

29 G. A nonresident 15-day fishing license, valid for 15 days from date indicated on
30 license, is ~~\$47~~ \$66.

31 H. A nonresident season fishing license for persons 16 years of age or older is ~~\$64~~
32 \$83.

33 J. A one-day fishing license for a resident or nonresident, valid for the 24-hour period
34 indicated on license, is ~~\$11~~ \$18.

35 **Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
36 allocations are made.

37 **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF**
38 **Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535**

Initiative: Provides funding for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10252, subsection 1.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000

Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program N531

Initiative: Provides baseline allocation to establish an account within the existing Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500,500	\$500,500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$500,500	\$500,500

Sec. 10. Effective date. Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 11109, subsection 3, paragraphs D, E and J and section 11109, subsection 7, paragraph B and section 11109-A, subsection 5 and section 12501, subsection 6 take effect December 1, 2025.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It changes the title.

2. It adds language to allow the fish hatchery maintenance fund to be used for overtime personnel services costs when overtime for fish stocking and other hatchery-related work is operationally required and also makes clear that the fund may support the design, construction and operation of additional state fish hatcheries.

3. It establishes the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program, which replaces the Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund established in the bill, and establishes program requirements and duties.

1 4. It makes changes to the fees for inland fishing licenses and adds an effective date
2 of December 1, 2025 for these changes.

3 5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**