

STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2022

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Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

SUBJECT INDEX

All-terrain Vehicles, Snowmobiles and Watercraft

Enacted

LD 1663 An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters PUBLIC 656
LD 1813 An Act Related to Oversized All-terrain Vehicles PUBLIC 526
LD 1873 An Act Related to Airboats PUBLIC 585

**Not
Enacted**

LD 394 An Act To Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife in the Issuance of a Permit To Hold a Regatta, Race or Boat or Water-ski Exhibition ONTP

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Enacted

LD 116 An Act Relating to the Hunting of Antlerless Deer PUBLIC 599

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Enacted

LD 1951 An Act Related to Hunting Dogs and Civil Trespass PUBLIC 580

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Enacted

LD 116 An Act Relating to the Hunting of Antlerless Deer PUBLIC 599

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Enacted

LD 116 An Act Relating to the Hunting of Antlerless Deer PUBLIC 599

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Enacted

LD 1951 An Act Related to Hunting Dogs and Civil Trespass PUBLIC 580

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Enacted

LD 116 An Act Relating to the Hunting of Antlerless Deer PUBLIC 599

Landowner Relations

Enacted

LD 1873 An Act Related to Airboats PUBLIC 585

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**Not
Enacted**

LD 1991 An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Big Game ONTP

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Enacted

LD 1663 An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters PUBLIC 656

Sunday Hunting

**Not
Enacted**

LD 2014 An Act Related to Sunday Hunting Majority (ONTP) Report

Tagging

Enacted

LD 1992 An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Turkey PUBLIC 704

**Not
Enacted**

LD 1991 An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Big Game ONTP

Wild Turkey Hunting

Enacted

LD 1992 An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Turkey PUBLIC 704

Wildlife Management

Enacted

LD 116 An Act Relating to the Hunting of Antlerless Deer PUBLIC 599

**Not
Enacted**

LD 1965 An Act To Create Higher Standards for State-owned and State-
managed Land for Deer Management

ONTP

DIGEST OF BILLS

130th Legislature, Second Regular Session - 2022

PL = Public Law
P&SL = Private and Special Law
RESLV = Resolve

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW)

Comm	LD	Title	Comm	Action	Carried Over from Prior Year?	Date of Last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law		Analyst Note?
								Law	Ch	
IFW	116	An Act Relating to the Hunting of Antlerless Deer	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried Over In Comm	4/1/22	Enacted	PL	599	
IFW	394	An Act To Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife in the Issuance of a Permit To Hold a Regatta, Race or Boat or Water-ski Exhibition	Reported Out	ONTP	Carried Over In Comm	1/25/22	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
IFW	1663	An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ OTP-AM	Carried Over In Comm	3/29/22	Enacted	PL	656	
IFW	1813	An Act Related to Oversized All-terrain Vehicles	Reported Out	OTP-AM		3/21/22	Emergency Enacted	PL	526	
IFW	1873	An Act Related to Airboats	Reported Out	OTP-AM		3/4/22	Enacted	PL	585	
IFW	1951	An Act Related to Hunting Dogs and Civil Trespass	Reported Out	OTP-AM		3/22/22	Enacted	PL	580	
IFW	1965	An Act To Create Higher Standards for State-owned and State-managed Land for Deer Management	Reported Out	ONTP		3/29/22	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
IFW	1991	An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Big Game	Reported Out	ONTP		3/7/22	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
IFW	1992	An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Turkey	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ ONTP		3/29/22	Enacted	PL	704	
IFW	2014	An Act Related to Sunday Hunting	Reported Out	ONTP/ OTP-AM		3/29/22	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			

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LD 116 An Act Relating to the Hunting of Antlerless Deer

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 599 does the following.

1. It creates a \$12 antlerless deer permit fee. The revenue from the \$12 antlerless deer permit fee is deposited in the Maine Deer Management Fund, less administrative costs.
2. It allows super pack license holders to use their antlerless deer permit in wildlife management areas where 2,000 or more antlerless permits are issued.
3. It eliminates swaps and transfers of permits for game animals, except moose. It also eliminates resident hunter antlerless deer permit transfers and antlerless deer permit transfers to a junior hunter.
4. It repeals the law which temporally permits the use of crossbows to hunt deer and turkey during the fall turkey season. Instead, the use of crossbows is allowed on an ongoing basis during the open archery season and during the fall turkey hunting season.
5. It authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to allow hunters to take antlerless deer without an antlerless deer permit in certain areas of the State. The law provides that if the commissioner establishes by rule a lottery system for issuing antlerless deer permits, the commissioner may also allow direct issuance of additional antlerless deer permits in certain areas of the State.
6. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to determine the statutory changes needed to equate crossbows and vertical bows for purposes of the hunting laws and to report these changes, along with the anticipated cost and timeline for the changes, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife by January 3, 2023. The committee is authorized to report out a bill on this subject matter to the First Regular or any special session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1813 An Act Related to Oversized All-terrain Vehicles

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 526 allows oversized all-terrain vehicles to be operated without registration by business owners on private land for commercial purposes, with written permission of the landowner.

Public Law 2021, chapter 526 was enacted as an emergency measure on March 31, 2022.

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LD 1873 An Act Related to Airboats

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 585 extends the repeal date of the law governing airboat noise for one year, until September 30, 2023. The law requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources to reconvene the stakeholder group on airboat operation and noise levels convened pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 166. The law directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to provide a report to the Legislature by January 3, 2024 on the findings of the department and the stakeholder group. After receiving the report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters may report out a bill relating to airboats to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1951 An Act Related to Hunting Dogs and Civil Trespass

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 580 does the following.

1. It requires a person to obtain a permit to train a hunting dog on bear, fox or raccoon or to hunt bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon with a dog. It exempts from the permit requirement a person with a junior hunting license and persons hunting or training with a guide. It provides for penalties for failure to have a permit and provides that permit fees are deposited into the Landowner Relations Fund.
2. It requires a person training a dog in pursuit of a bear, fox or raccoon to have a collar on the dog with a functioning global positioning system tracker and a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of that dog.
3. It requires a person hunting with a dog in pursuit of a bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon to have a collar on the dog that has a functioning global positioning system tracker and adds foxes and raccoons to the list of wild animals a person may not hunt with a dog unless the dog has a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of the dog.
4. It limits hunting foxes or raccoons with dogs to not more than 6 dogs.
5. It prohibits certain types of trespass by a hunting dog. A person may not turn a hunting dog loose in pursuit of a bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon:
 - A. Onto the property of another if the property is posted or if the landowner has notified the dog handler that hunting dogs are not allowed on the property; or

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- B. In a manner that results in the hunting dog entering the property of another, if a hunting dog has been previously found on that property and any dog handler of the hunting dog has been notified in writing by a law enforcement officer within the previous 365 days that the landowner does not permit hunting dogs on the property.

LD 1992 An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Turkey

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 704 does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules allowing for the electronic registration of turkey beginning in 2023.
2. It does not require registration or tagging of turkey hunted in the fall 2022 season.
3. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by November 2, 2022 on additional statutory changes needed in order to facilitate the electronic tagging of turkey. It authorizes the committee to report out a bill related to electronic tagging to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1663 An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 656 does the following.

1. Beginning on January 1, 2024, it creates a mandatory boating safety and education course requirement for a person born on or after January 1, 1999 to operate a motorboat of more than 25 horsepower or equivalent on inland waters of the state.
2. Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires anyone born on or after January 1, 1999, who is operating a personal watercraft on inland waters of the state, to complete a boater safety and education course.
3. Beginning January 1, 2024, it prohibits a person born after 1999 from supervising a person under the age of 12 who operates a motorboat propelled by machinery of more than 10 horsepower or equivalent upon inland waters of the state unless that supervisor is at least 16 years of age and has completed a boater safety and education course.
4. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife convene a stakeholder group on boating safety and education. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to

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provide a report to the Legislature by January 3, 2024 on its findings. After receiving the report, the committee with jurisdiction over matters of inland fisheries and wildlife has authority to report out a bill relating to boating safety to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.