



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

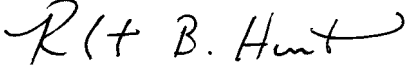
No. 157

H.P. 90

House of Representatives, January 14, 2025

An Act to Amend Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws

Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered
printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§11**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 228, §2, is repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10268** is enacted to read:

4 **§10268. Fish and Wildlife Management Education Fund**

5 The department shall deposit \$1 of every hunting license and trapping license fee
6 collected pursuant to sections 11109, 11109-A and 12201 in a separate account within the
7 department, to be known as the Fish and Wildlife Management Education Fund. The fund
8 is nonlapsing. The department shall use money in the fund on an annual basis to educate
9 the public on the management of game species of fish and wildlife and to communicate
10 with the public about department programs. The department may contract with a private
11 entity to provide this education. Education provided pursuant to this section may include
12 information about how hunting and fishing help to manage specific species. The
13 department may continue its activities pursuant to this section during ballot initiative
14 campaigns concerning fish and wildlife issues.

15 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§6, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2
16 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

17 D. Discharging a firearm or archery equipment within 100 yards of a residential
18 dwelling without owner permission, in violation of section 11209;

19 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 370, §6, is further
20 amended to read:

21 **6. Application procedure.** An eligible person wishing to apply for a permit must file
22 ~~a written~~ an application for a permit on a form furnished by the commissioner. The
23 application fee is nonrefundable. A person may not file ~~no~~ more than one application. A
24 person who submits more than one application is disqualified from the selection of
25 permittees. The application must be accompanied by an application fee of:

26 A. For a resident:

27 (1) Fifteen dollars for a one-chance application; or

28 B. For a nonresident:

29 (1) Fifteen dollars for a one-chance application;

30 (2) Twenty-five dollars for a 3-chance application;

31 (3) Thirty-five dollars for a 6-chance application; and

32 (4) Fifty-five dollars for a 10-chance application; multiple 10-chance options may
33 be purchased.

34 A clerk or agent appointed by the commissioner under section 10801 may process an
35 application under this subsection. The clerk or agent shall charge a fee of \$2 for each
36 application under this subsection processed by that clerk or agent.

37 The commissioner shall allow an applicant to indicate that that applicant does not want to
38 receive a moose permit pursuant to the application but wishes to receive the corresponding
39 points under subsection 8 for that application.

1 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11214, sub-§1, ¶G**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 301, §15, is
2 repealed.

3 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12201, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 646, Pt. A, §16, is
4 further amended to read:

5 **3. Successful completion of trapper education program required for license.**
6 Except as provided in paragraph A, a person who applies for a state license to trap, other
7 than a junior trapping license pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph B or an apprentice trapper
8 license issued under section 12204, must submit proof of having successfully completed a
9 trapper education course of the type described in section 10108, subsection 7 or satisfactory
10 evidence of having previously held an adult license to trap in this State ~~or any other state,~~
11 ~~province or country~~ in any year beginning in or after 1978. If a person submits satisfactory
12 evidence of having previously held an adult license to trap in any other state, province or
13 country, the person must also submit proof of having successfully completed a trapper
14 education course comparable to the type described in section 10108, subsection 7.

15 When proof or evidence ~~can not~~ cannot otherwise be provided, the person may substitute a
16 signed affidavit that that person has previously held the required adult trapping license or
17 that that person has successfully completed the required trapper education course.

18 A. A person who is an enrolled member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot
19 Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or the Mi'kmaq Nation who presents
20 certification from the respective reservation chief or governor or the Mi'kmaq Nation
21 Tribal Council stating that the person is an enrolled member of a federally recognized
22 nation, band or tribe listed in this paragraph is exempt from the requirements of this
23 subsection.

24 **Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §12664, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 231, §2, is further
25 amended to read:

26 **2. Unlawful use.** This subsection governs the use of lead sinkers, bare lead jigs and
27 painted lead jigs within inland waters.

28 A. A person may not:

- 29 (1) Use a lead sinker;
30 (2) Beginning September 1, 2017, use a bare lead jig; or
31 (3) Beginning September 1, 2026, use a painted lead jig.

32 B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of
33 not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

34 C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having
35 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period
36 commits a Class E crime.

37 **Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §12708, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 184, §§10 to
38 12, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (4-A) to read:

39 (4-A) Caribou Stream WMA - Washburn, Woodland - Aroostook County;

40 **Sec. 9. 12 MRSA §12708, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 184, §§10 to
41 12, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (18-A) to read:

1 (18-A) Lexington WMA - Lexington Township - Somerset County;

2 **Sec. 10. 12 MRSA §12708, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 184, §§10 to
3 12, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (19-A) to read:

4 (19-A) Macwahoc WMA - Upper Molunkus Township, North Yarmouth
5 Academy Grant Township (T1 R4 WELS) - Aroostook County;

6 **Sec. 11. 12 MRSA §12708, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 184, §§10 to
7 12, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (35-A) to read:

8 (35-A) Rangeley WMA - Rangeley - Franklin County;

9 **Sec. 12. 12 MRSA §12708, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 184, §§10 to
10 12, is further amended by repealing subparagraph (46).

11 **Sec. 13. 12 MRSA §12953, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 164, §24, is further
12 amended to read:

13 **7. Renewal Expiration and renewal of license; fees.** Licenses Prior to January 1,
14 2026, licenses issued pursuant to this section expire 3 years from the date of issuance unless
15 revoked sooner. Beginning January 1, 2026, a taxidermist license entitles a person to
16 practice the art of taxidermy through the remainder of the calendar year in which the license
17 was issued plus 2 calendar years unless revoked sooner. A taxidermist whose license is
18 not suspended or revoked may renew the license every 3 years upon application by the
19 licensee accompanied by a \$77 license fee.

20 **Sec. 14. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§14**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §380
21 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

22 **14. Operating motorboat in bathing swim areas.** The following provisions apply
23 to operating a motorboat in a bathing swim area.

24 A. A person may not:

25 (1) Operate a motorboat within a bathing swim area marked or buoyed for bathing
26 swimming; or

27 (2) Operate an airmobile on a beach adjacent to a bathing swim area marked or
28 buoyed for bathing swimming.

29 B. The following penalties apply to violations of this subsection.

30 (1) A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a
31 fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

32 (2) A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having
33 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year
34 period commits a Class E crime.

35 SUMMARY

36 This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing inland fisheries and
37 wildlife.

38 1. It moves the laws governing the Fish and Wildlife Management Education Fund
39 into a subchapter dealing with specific dedicated funds.

- 1 2. It provides a mandatory hunting license suspension for a person convicted of
2 discharging archery equipment within 100 yards of a residential dwelling without owner
3 permission.
- 4 3. It removes the word "written" from the laws governing the moose permit lottery
5 application.
- 6 4. It repeals the prohibition on the use of a set bow for hunting.
- 7 5. It provides that if a person submits satisfactory evidence of having previously held
8 an adult license to trap in any other state, province or country, the person must also submit
9 proof of having successfully completed a trapper education course comparable to the type
10 described in law.
- 11 6. It provides that the laws governing the use of lead sinkers, bare lead jigs and painted
12 lead jigs apply within inland waters.
- 13 7. It adds 4 new wildlife management areas to the list of wildlife management areas
14 and removes one from that list.
- 15 8. It provides that, beginning on January 1, 2026, a taxidermist license entitles a person
16 to practice the art of taxidermy through the remainder of the calendar year in which the
17 license was issued plus 2 calendar years unless revoked sooner.
- 18 9. It changes the term "bathing area" to "swim area" in the laws governing motorboat
19 operation.