



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1652

S.P. 551

In Senate, December 21, 2011

An Act To Ensure a Reliable Funding Stream for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2011. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President RAYE of Washington.

Cosponsored by Representative DAVIS of Sangerville and

Senators: MARTIN of Kennebec, PATRICK of Oxford, Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, BURNS of Whiting, HARMON of Palermo, TURNER of Burlington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10751, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

3 **9. Donations.** The commissioner may provide on a license or permit application a
4 method for the applicant to donate funds for use by the department for a wildlife
5 management district established by the department and identified by the applicant. Funds
6 donated to the department under this subsection are nonrefundable and are in addition to
7 any other fee.

8 **Sec. 2. Funding sources.** The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
9 shall identify reliable, ongoing funding sources for the Department of Inland Fisheries
10 and Wildlife to ensure its long-term financial stability. The commissioner shall work with
11 the Public Utilities Commission and other entities as the commissioner determines
12 necessary to secure a portion of the revenues deposited in the energy infrastructure
13 benefit fund pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 122, subsection
14 6-A or any other revenue received by the Public Utilities Commission through fees or
15 other consideration for energy projects to fund the operations of the Department of Inland
16 Fisheries and Wildlife. The commissioner shall report to the joint standing committee of
17 the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by January
18 15, 2013 on funding sources identified or secured pursuant to this section. The joint
19 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and
20 wildlife matters may report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature
21 relating to the commissioner's report.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to allow an
24 applicant for a license or permit issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and
25 Wildlife to make a donation to the department to be used for a wildlife management
26 district identified by the applicant. It also directs the commissioner to seek long-term
27 funding sources for the department and to work with the Public Utilities Commission and
28 other entities to secure a portion of the fees paid for the use of state-owned land and
29 assets within energy infrastructure corridors to help fund operations of the department.
30 The commissioner must report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
31 jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by January 15, 2013 on funding
32 sources identified or secured.