



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 77

H.P. 41

House of Representatives, January 8, 2025

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

Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Received by the Clerk of the House on January 6, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WOOD of Greene.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

3 **12. Fishing license revenues.** For every fishing license fee collected pursuant to
4 sections 11109, 11109-A and 12501, the department shall deposit \$6.00 into the Inland
5 Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund established in section 10268 and \$1 into
6 the Boat Launch Facilities Fund established in section 10261.

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

8 **§10268. Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund**

9 **1. Fund established.** The Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Fund,
10 referred to in this section as "the fund," is established through the Office of the State
11 Controller as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction of the fisheries and hatcheries
12 division within the department, referred to in this section as "the division." The department
13 shall use money in the fund on an annual basis for the conservation and enhancement of
14 inland freshwater fisheries resources in this State.

15 **2. Fund sources.** Six dollars from the sale of resident, nonresident, combination and
16 super pack fishing licenses must be deposited into the fund. The division may apply for
17 and accept any appropriation, grant, gift or service made available from any public or
18 private source consistent with the purpose of this section and shall deposit any such money
19 into the fund. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and
20 accounts.

21 **3. Uses of fund.** The fund must be used according to this subsection.

22 **A.** Sixty-five percent of the annual license revenue deposited into the fund must be
23 allocated to the conservation, research and management of freshwater fish species
24 native to the State.

25 **B.** Thirty-five percent of the annual license revenue deposited into the fund must be
26 allocated to the enhancement and management of inland freshwater recreational
27 fisheries in this State.

28 **C.** Any amount in the fund that is not expended at the end of a fiscal year does not lapse
29 but must be carried forward.

30 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶D,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c.
31 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

32 **D.** A resident combination hunting and fishing license is \$43 ~~\$50.00~~ and permits
33 hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3.

34 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶E,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c.
35 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

36 **E.** A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is \$43 ~~\$50.00~~ and
37 permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3.

38 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶J,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c.
39 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

40 **J.** A nonresident combination hunting and fishing license is ~~\$150~~ ~~\$157.00~~.

