

# 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature (2024)– Summary of Laws Enacted 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session



## Table of Contents

Public Laws .....	2
Boater Education Requirement Law Changes .....	6
Resolves.....	9
Laws of Interest .....	10
Resolves of Interest .....	14
Results of Resolves or Carryovers from 2023 .....	15
Diagrams Archery/Crossbow New Law.....	17
Hunter Orange Wear Requirement Diagram .....	18

### NOTE:

- This is not law as written and should only be used as guidance and to locate the actual law language.
- To read the chaptered law, right click on the PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER or RESOLVE #, scroll down and click on “open hyperlink”. Ctrl+F: allows a search for a key word.

# Public Laws

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## **PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 231** – (LD 958) **An Act to Expand Protections to Maine’s Loons from Lead Poisoning by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead Jigs**

*(Specific Effective Dates of 9-1-24 on the ban of selling and 9-1-26 on the use of painted lead jigs that fall within the weight and length category described below.)*

This law expands the prohibition on use and sale of painted lead jigs by making it illegal **to sell or offer for sale** painted lead jigs weighing one ounce or less or measuring 2 ½ inches or less in length **beginning September 1, 2024** and making it illegal **to use** them **beginning September 1, 2026**.

- If the jig has something detachable you measure the jig and don’t include the detachable portion.
- This only applies to inland waters not coastal waters.
- Possession is still legal but after 9/1/26 they cannot be used.

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## **PUBLIC LAW CHAPTER 494** – (LD 2038) **An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Land for Maine’s Future Board to Allow for Proxy Designees**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

This law allows each permanent member of the Land for Maine’s Future Board to designate a proxy for board meetings. The permanent members of the board are the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Commissioner of Marine Resources and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

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## **PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 526** – (LD 2052) **An Act to Provide Additional Moose Hunting Opportunities for Maine Youth Experiencing Critical Illnesses**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

This law increases from 2 to 5 the number of moose hunting permits that may be issued to nonprofit organizations that provide hunting and fishing adventures to children with life threatening, critical or terminal illnesses and specifies that at least 3 of the permits must be issued to an organization based in the State and given to children who are residents of the State.

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## **PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 530** – (LD 2216) **An Act to Amend the Start Date of the September Upland Game Season**

*(Effective: January 1, 2025)*

This law goes into effect January 1, 2025. This changes the Commissioner authority relating to the start date of the upland game season. Since a law change in 2019, the season had to begin on the last Saturday in September. This change allows the Commissioner to include the last Saturday in September but wouldn’t mean that other subsequent days in September after the last Saturday would need to be open to upland game. On some years the upland game season has been open a full week before Oct 1<sup>st</sup> which has caused a lot of congestion and conflicts in the North Maine Woods between bird and moose hunters. Now it can be open for the last Saturday, close down again and open back up on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**[PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 583](#)** – (LD 2272) **An Act Related to Airboats and Airboat Noise Limits**  
*(Effective by Emergency: March 28, 2024)*

This law provides that a person may not operate an airboat:

1. If the noise level of the airboat exceeds 90 decibels;
2. Between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. if the noise level of the airboat exceeds 75 decibels, except to the extent necessary to achieve headway speed when leaving a boat launch or to move the airboat from a stationary position on a tidal flat; or
3. Between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. if the noise level of the airboat exceeds 90 decibels, except to the extent necessary to achieve headway speed when leaving a boat launch or to move the airboat from a stationary position on a tidal flat.

The law also defines “airboat” and outlines penalties for violating these provisions and provides exceptions for certain law enforcement officers.

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**[PUBLIC LAW CHAPTER 611](#)**- (LD 2284) **An Act to Implement Recommendations in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s Report on Wake Boats**  
*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

This law was a result of **[RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 33](#)** – (LD 379) **Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Study the Effects of Wake Boats on Shoreline Property and the Environment** that directed the Department to study effects of wake boats. IFW established a stakeholder group to review completed studies relating to wake boats and their effects on shoreline property and the environment during 2023 and reported their findings and suggestions back to the IFW Legislative Committee in 2024. The stakeholder group paid special attention to issues relating to the types of boats used, the appropriate distance from the shoreline and depth of the body of water, enforcement mechanisms, including fines, and the definition used for “wake boat.” The report back provided to the Legislature can be found here: [View Report Back \(PDF\)](#)

The IFW Legislative Committee reported a bill out and this law resulted:

- Defines “wakesurfing activity” to mean an activity that involves using a surfboard, wakeboard or similar device while being propelled by a motorboat’s wake or while on or in a motorboat’s wake directly behind that motorboat.
- Requires a watercraft dealer who sells a motorboat in the State shall provide the purchaser of that motorboat with information related to the boater safety and education courses offered by the department as well as information related to those operators who are required to complete those courses.
- Creates a law that a person may not operate a motorboat engaged in a wakesurfing activity in less than 15 feet of water or within 300 feet of the shoreline.
- Requires IFW to develop an outreach program to provide boater safety and education to persons engaged in wakesurfing activities in Maine.
- IFW is required to submit a report focused on wake boats and wakesurfing activities in the State to the IFW legislative committee no later than February 1, 2027. The report must include information on the outreach program. The report must also include detailed information on enforcement mechanisms and the level of enforcement undertaken, as measured by statistics when data are available, including the number of reported incidents, the number of complaints

and the number of boats checked. The report may include information on enforcement challenges, the department's view on the appropriate water depth and distance from the shoreline for users engaged in a wakesurfing activity and any recommendations for statutory changes related to these issues. DACF Boating Facilities Program has asked that we obtain their feedback and include it within the report back.

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**[PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 612](#)** – (LD 1342) **An Act to Increase Funding for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Aquatic Species**

*(Effective: January 1, 2025)*

- This law increases the fees for new or renewal certificates of number (boat registrations) for resident motorboats and personal watercraft and the fees for lake and river protection stickers for all motorboats and personal watercraft not registered in the State and for seaplanes operating on inland waters of the State.
- **Beginning January 1, 2025**, the fees for certificates of number are increased by \$10 and the fees for lake and river protection stickers are increased by \$15 and,
- **Beginning January 1, 2028**, the fees are increased by an additional \$10 for certificates of number and by an additional \$15 for lake and river protection stickers.
- **Beginning January 1, 2025**, this also makes a change to how fees are allocated so that, 70% of fees are credited to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund, rather than 80% as in current law, and 30% of fees, rather than 20% as in current law, are credited to the Lake and River Protection Fund.
- This law was a result of a carryover bill from the 2023 Legislative session: [L.D. 1342](#). The report back that IFW and DEP provided to the Legislature can be found here: [View Report Back \(PDF\)](#)

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**[PUBLIC LAW CHAPTER 643](#)** – (LD 2214) **An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025**

*(Effective: August 9, 2025)*

This law is the supplemental budget for years 2024-2025 and Pages 98-104 provide IFW specific funding information.

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**[PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 668](#)** – (LD 2276) **An Act to Increase Funding for the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the ATV Recreational Management Fund**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

In [L.D. 977](#) – **Resolve, to Study the Gasoline Tax Allocations for Nonhighway Recreational Vehicles and Make Recommendations for Changes** was carried over and a letter was sent to IFW from the IFW Legislative Committee asking the agency to update data used in the creation of the gas tax allocations for recreational vehicles in Title 36, section 2903-D. The Committee requested IFW work with Dr. Jonathan Rubin of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at UMaine as well as include key staff from DACF. They requested that the Department use current registration data for ATVs and snowmobiles to run the study model that was originally used by Dr. Rubin in 2001 as part of the Maine Legislature's

Commission to Study the Equity in the Distribution of Gas Tax Revenues Attributable to Snowmobiles, ATVs and Watercraft in 2001.

- A report back to the Committee was provided in 2024, that included recommendations on changes to the distribution of gas tax allocations and as a result this law was passed.
- This law makes several changes to the gasoline tax allocation splits by changing percentages to provide additional funding to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands' Snowmobile Trail Fund and ATV Recreational Management Funds and less funding to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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**[PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 593](#) – (LD 614) **An Act to Reduce Conflicts Between Landowners and Deer and Add an Additional Youth Deer Hunting Day****

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

- It requires that funds from the Maine Deer Management Fund within IFW be used to help reduce conflicts between landowners and deer and directs the Commissioner of IFW to add a checkoff option on the department's online licensing system that allows a person to donate money for landowner-deer conflict prevention and management.
- It removes the provision that \$2 of each deer registration fee deposited in the Maine Deer Management Fund within IFW be used for predator control and deer habitat purposes and instead provides that it may be used to assist landowners with the prevention or management of deer conflicts.
- It requires that revenue deposited in the Maine Deer Management Fund within IFW from antlerless deer permit fees, minus administrative costs, must be used for predator control purposes or to acquire or manage deer habitat. The above parts of this law are the result of a carryover bill from 2023, **[L.D. 614 An Act to Provide a Free Antlerless Deer Permit to Certain Landowners Who Allow the Public to Hunt on Their Property](#)**. In lieu of passing this bill the IFW Legislative committee sent a letter to IFW requesting the following: That the current Antlerless Deer Permit (ADP) process remain as it was in 2022 to allow the "dust to settle" on the new process. IFW shall look at and make recommendations on any possible modifications that are related to LDs 458, 608, 613, 763 & 798. A report back was provided in 2024 that included a summary of the ADP process and recommendations which included the change to the law.
- It extends the youth deer hunting period from one day to 2 days and establishes that the period takes place on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Saturday designated as an open day for residents of the State. This portion of the law was the result of a 2023 law: **[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 191](#)** – (LD 482) An Act to Extend the Time for Youth Deer Hunting, that directed the agency to report back on the impacts to allowing a 2<sup>nd</sup> youth deer hunting day in 2023 and the Committee included this law change permanently within this law.
- **It also directs IFW by February 1, 2027, to provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters on the changes to youth deer hunting. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the 133<sup>rd</sup> Legislature in 2027.**

# Boater Education Requirement Law Changes

**NOTE:** [PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 656](#) is the mandatory boater education law that was passed in 2022 but goes into effect 1-1-24. At the direction of the legislature, a stakeholder group met, proposed exceptions to this law in 2023 and after the [report back](#) to the Legislature was provided, another law with the exceptions to the mandatory boater education requirement will also take effect on 1-1-24, this law is: [PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 206](#).

[PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 656](#) – (LD 1663) **An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters**

[PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 206](#) – (LD 1807) **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s Report on Boater Safety Education**

**The chart below provides age, horsepower, and boater education and supervision requirements necessary for each category as described within the new law.**

(course only required for those born after 1/1/99)

*(Effective: January 1, 2024)*

Age of Boat Operator	HP of Boat/Type of Boat	Can Person Operate	Does Boat Operator Need Boater Ed Course?	Does Boat Operator Need Supervision?
Under 12 y/o	Under 11 hp motor	Yes	No	No
Under 12 y/o	Over 10 hp motor up to 25 hp motor	Yes	No	Yes (supervisor must be 16 yrs or older and if born after 1999 must have a boater ed course)
12 & older, born after 1999	25 hp motor or less	Yes	No	No
12 & older, born before 1999	25 hp motor or less	Yes	No	No
12 & older, born after 1999	Over 25 hp motor	Yes	Yes	No (there is no option to have supervision instead of boater ed course)
12 & older, born before 1999	Over 25 hp motor	Yes	No	No
Under 16 y/o	PWC	No	N/A	N/A
16 & older, born after 1999	PWC	Yes	Yes	No (there is no option to have supervision instead of boater ed course)
16 & older, born before 1999	PWC	Yes	No	No

Exemptions for Certain Types of Operators	HP of Boat/Type of Boat	Can person operate	Does Boat Operator Need Boater Ed Course?	Does Boat Operator Need Supervision?
Licensed Maine Guide of any age (hunting, fishing, and recreational guides only, PWC requirement still apply)		Yes	No	No
Licensed Merchant Mariner		Yes	No	No
Test Driving Boat at Dealer		Yes	No	Yes (supervisor must be 16 yrs or older and if born after 1999 must have a boater ed course)
Operator of Rented Boat		Yes	Yes (a temporary boater ed course, allows boater to use 14 days after course completion)	No
Not a citizen of US, arrived by sea, staying on territorial waters 60 days or less		Yes	No	No

### Brief Overview of Age of Operation/HP/Supervision Requirements

(course only required for those born after 1/1/99)

- Under 12 y/o can operate 10 hp or less without supervision or safety course
- Under 12 y/o can operate over 10 hp up to 25 hp with supervision, operator doesn't need safety course, the supervisor must 16 yrs or older and have boater-ed course if born after 1999
- 12 and over can operate 25 hp or less alone (without supervision) and without safety course
- 12 and over can operate over a 25 hp with safety course
- To operate PWC must be 16 yrs of age and older and if person is born after 1/1/99 they must have a boater safety ed. Course
- To supervise, if person is born after 1/1/99 they must be at least 16 yrs or older and have safety course

#### Many exceptions apply:

Beginning January 1, 2024, a person born on or after January 1, 1999, may not operate a motorboat greater than twenty-five (25) horsepower for recreational boating purposes on inland waters of this State or territorial waters, unless that person is 12 years of age or older and has completed a boater safety and education course. These persons must possess and present a boater safety and education course certificate for inspection upon request to a law enforcement officer. There are a few exemptions, such as for registered Maine guides (hunting, fishing, and recreational guides only), commercial

fishermen, daily boat renters, and merchant mariners, please see the [frequently asked questions](#) of the IFW website for more information.

A person born after January 1, 1999 is also required to complete a boater safety and education course and be at least 16 years of age to operate a personal watercraft (such as a jet ski) on inland waters and territorial waters of the State or to supervise a person under 12 years of age who is operating a motorboat.

**Online Boating Education Courses Offered in Maine:** There are currently three vendors that provide Maine online boating education courses. Once you have successfully completed this self-paced online course you will immediately be issued a boater safety and education course certificate. The online courses are:

- [BoatUS Foundation](#): This foundation is a nonprofit organization that champions boating safety. This is a free online course that requests a \$10 donation.
- [Boat-Ed](#): This online course costs \$34.95.
- [Boattests101](#): This online course costs \$24.95.



# Resolves

**[RESOLVE 2024 CHAPTER 148](#) – (LD 1049) **Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to Address Aquatic Invasive Species****

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

This resolve directs the IFW and the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) to enter into a memorandum of understanding by December 15, 2024 to establish a process to plan for actions to control and prevent further spread of aquatic invasive species as fish passages are improved and fish barriers are removed statewide. This directs the departments to include a requirement in the memorandum that it be updated at least every 5 years and that the departments provide notice to the IFW Legislative Committee any time the memorandum is reviewed and updated. It also directs the departments to include a requirement in the memorandum that if changes are planned that reduce commitments outlined in the memorandum to control and prevent the further spread of aquatic invasive species at the dam on the Penobscot River in the Town of Medway or the dam on the Piscataquis River at Brown's Mill in the Town of Dover-Foxcroft, MDIFW Legislative Committee must be notified in writing prior to the changes being implemented.

This was the result of a 2023 bill: [LD 1049](#) – **An Act to Protect Maine's Inland Fisheries from Invasive Fish**. IFW provided a report back in 2024 and an M.O.U. was developed and signed by and between IFW and DMR that outlines how the State agencies will manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) where fish passage is being planned.

# Laws of Interest

## **PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 491** – (LD 582) **An Act to Enhance Certain Penalties for Possession of Firearms by Prohibited Persons**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

This law increases the class of crime for the prohibited possession of a firearm by certain persons from a Class C to a Class B for certain offenses and from a Class D crime to a Class C crime for other offenses.

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## **PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 581** – (LD 581) **An Act to Amend the State's Data Governance Program**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

- This law requires each state agency to designate an employee with the responsibility to oversee the agency's compliance with the data governance program established in Title 1 Section 547. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS), shall work with the state agency designees to inventory the collection and availability of demographic data fields by the state agency, including, but not limited to, gender, location, race, ethnicity, birth sex, citizenship, socioeconomic status, education, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability status and age.
- The DAFS Commissioner shall work with the Department of the Secretary of State and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations to convene a stakeholder group at least once each year to review progress in developing and implementing the data governance program. When inviting members to the stakeholder group, consideration must be given to racial, ethnic, gender, socioeconomic and other demographic diversity of the group.

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## **PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 620** – (LD 1835) **An Act to Require the State to Notify Indian Tribes and Indian Nations When New Laws Are Enacted That Need to Be Certified**

*(Effective: See specifics within law)*

This law requires the Secretary of State, within 15 business days after the final adjournment of a legislative session, to notify the chiefs of the Tribes in Maine of each item of legislation enacted during the legislative session that, pursuant to federal law, will not take effect unless the Secretary of State receives written certification that the nation, tribe or band agrees to the legislation. The notice must inform the chief or designee of each nation, tribe or band of any deadline included in the legislation for transmittal of a written certification of agreement; the deadline may not be less than 120 days after final adjournment of the legislative session. The Secretary of State must send a 2nd notice between 60 and 75 business days after final adjournment of the legislative session to the chief or designee of each nation, tribe or band, identifying each item of legislation for which a certification of agreement from the nation, tribe or band has not been received.

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**[PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 642](#)** – (LD 2264) **An Act to Clarify the Use of Public Equipment on Public Easements**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

This law clarifies that a legislative body of a town or village corporation may authorize the use of the town's highway equipment to plow, maintain or repair private ways, otherwise known as public easements. It allows the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission to meet up to 12 times per year and directs the commission to consider the scope of property owner liability and public use of public easements, property owner liability on public easements, the benefits and costs of a road inventory and creating a right of-way template for property owners of land along an abandoned or discontinued road.

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**[PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 647](#)** – (LD 2007) **An Act Regarding the Criminal Jurisdiction of Tribal Courts and to Extend the Time for the Penobscot Nation to Certify Its Agreement to Public Law 2023, Chapter 369** *(This has a specific effective date, see pg. 17 of law)*

- Among MANY other changes this law amends the provisions of the Maine Implementing Act governing the jurisdictional relationship between the State and both the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation.
- It provides that the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation each have exclusive jurisdiction within their respective Indian territory over violations of their respective tribal ordinances by members of any federally recognized Indian tribe, but that the State has exclusive jurisdiction within Passamaquoddy Indian territory and Penobscot Indian territory over violations of applicable tribal ordinances by persons who are not members of any federally recognized Indian tribe; and
- It provides that law enforcement officers appointed by the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation have exclusive authority to enforce, within their respective Indian territories, civil and domestic relations laws over which the Passamaquoddy Tribal Court and the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court have exclusive jurisdiction, respectively. Law enforcement officers appointed by the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation also have exclusive authority to enforce, on their respective Indian reservations, the criminal and juvenile offenses over which the Passamaquoddy Tribal Court and the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court have exclusive jurisdiction, respectively. **State and county law enforcement officers have concurrent authority with law enforcement officers appointed by the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation to enforce all other laws of the State within both Indian territories and concurrent authority to enforce fishing rules or regulations adopted by the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission.**

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**[PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 675](#)** – (LD 2224) **An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

This law does the following:

- It provides that a person may not own, possess or have under that person's control a firearm if that person is a restricted person under an order issued by another jurisdiction that is similar to an extreme risk protection order in this State.
- It provides that a person may not recklessly sell or transfer a firearm to a person who is prohibited from owning, possessing or having under that person's control a firearm.
- It changes the classification of the crime of recklessly, knowingly or intentionally selling or transferring a firearm to a person who is prohibited from owning, possessing or having under that person's control a firearm from a Class D to a Class C crime.
- It provides that a seller who is not a federally licensed firearms dealer and who transfers ownership of a firearm to a buyer may not complete the transaction unless the seller facilitates the transaction through a federally licensed firearms dealer. The dealer must perform a background check of the buyer by using the FBI, National Instant Criminal Background Check System in the same manner as if the dealer were the seller of the firearm that is the subject of the transaction. If the background check reveals that the buyer is prohibited from purchasing a firearm, the dealer must notify the seller of that fact and of the fact that the transaction may not proceed. The dealer may charge a reasonable fee for serving as the facilitator. This provision applies only to transactions in which a seller sells a firearm to a buyer at a gun show, or a seller sells a firearm to a buyer as a result of an advertisement, posting, display or other listing on the Internet or in a publication. This provision does not apply to a transaction in which the buyer and seller are family members or a transaction for a firearm that is a curio or relic if the sale, transfer or exchange is between collectors of firearms as curios or relics who each have in their possession a valid collector of curios and relics license issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or to a transaction for a firearm that is an antique firearm.
- It provides that if a law enforcement officer is unable to take a person into protective custody to conduct an assessment in connection with an extreme risk protection order, the law enforcement officer may apply for a protective custody warrant. The officer must submit an affidavit of probable cause for a protective custody warrant to a justice of the peace, Justice of the Superior Court or a Judge of the District Court. The justice of the peace, Justice of the Superior Court or judge must issue a protective custody warrant and promptly transmit that warrant to the officer for execution upon finding the affidavit is sufficient to establish probable cause to believe that the person is mentally ill and due to that condition presents a likelihood of serious harm; probable cause to believe that the person possesses, controls or may acquire a dangerous weapon; and that the officer has made reasonable attempts to take the person into custody without a warrant.
- It also provides that an assessment performed in connection with an extreme risk protection order may be facilitated using telehealth technology. It changes the required timing of certain events related to an extreme risk protection order.
- It requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide injury and violence prevention programs, including data collection, synthesis and evaluation.
- It requires the DHHS to plan for and assist a statewide network of crisis receiving centers to provide immediate and short-term mental health and substance use disorder crisis stabilization services.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 678** – (LD 2238) **An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

- This law requires a 72-hour waiting period between an agreement for the purchase and sale of a firearm and the delivery of that firearm to the purchaser. The 72-hour waiting period after the sale of a firearm must be concurrent with any waiting period required by any background check process required by federal or state law.
- There are exceptions to the requirement of a 72-hour waiting period if the sale of a firearm is to a law enforcement officer, a corrections officer, a person employed by a contract security company, a licensed private security guard, a firearm dealer, if the sale is between family members, if the firearm being sold is a curio, relic or antique firearm or if the sale does not require a background check under federal or state law.
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**PUBLIC LAW 2024 CHAPTER 681** – (LD 877) **An Act to Increase Cybersecurity in Maine**

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

- It requires the Chief Information Officer (CIO) in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) to establish and maintain a list of companies that pose a national security risk or a risk to the security and safety of persons of the United States and a list of information and communications technology and services that pose the same risk, which must be published on the department's publicly accessible website and must be updated at least annually.
- With certain exceptions, state agencies, local governmental entities, the judicial branch and the legislative branch are prohibited from contracting with a company or using, obtaining or purchasing information and communications technology and services included on the lists.
- Law enforcement agencies are also exempt from the prohibitions in the law to the extent the prohibitions restrict law enforcement agencies' ability to protect the public or investigate criminal activity.
- The law also requires a person that submits a bid for a contract with the State for goods or services to certify that the person is not a foreign adversary. If a person submits a false certification, that person commits a civil violation for which a fine may be adjudged in an amount that is twice the amount of the contract or \$250,000, whichever is greater.

# Resolves of Interest

**[RESOLVE 2024 CHAPTER 163](#) – (LD 2235) **Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to Add a 3rd Option for Gender on State Forms****

*(Effective: December 31, 2024)*

This resolve requires by December 31, 2024 the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to coordinate with all executive branch agencies, (this include MDIFW) boards, and commissions to add an option to designate “X” for gender on all printed and electronic forms, applications and other documents used by these entities that require a person to designate that person’s gender, except when the form is created as a result of federal law or regulation.

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**[RESOLVE 2024 CHAPTER 165](#) – (LD 2094) **Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers****

*(Effective: August 9, 2024)*

This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety to convene a stakeholder group to study long-term solutions to improve the recruitment, retention and wellness of law enforcement officers in the State. The study must include, but is not limited to:

1. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the recruitment of law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to address vacant law enforcement positions;
2. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the retention of law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to support this goal; and
3. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage mental and physical wellness programs for law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to support this goal.

That the stakeholder group under section 1 consists of the following 12 members:

1. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;
2. An individual representing the Maine Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police;
3. An individual representing the Maine Association of Police;
4. An individual representing a statewide association advocating for state troopers in the State;
5. An individual representing the Maine State Law Enforcement Association;
6. An individual representing the Maine Criminal Justice Academy;
7. An individual representing a coalition of mental health providers in the State who specialize in treating first responders as their sole practice;
8. An individual representing a postsecondary educational institution in the State with programs focused on law enforcement or mental health;
9. An individual representing the Maine Chiefs of Police Association;
10. An individual representing the Maine Sheriffs' Association;
11. A student representing a secondary school program focused on law enforcement education in the State; and
12. An individual representing retired law enforcement officers in the State.

It specifies that the stakeholder group must develop a report and that no later than January 2, 2025 the Department of Public Safety must submit the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters.

## Results of Resolves or Carryovers from 2023

### Carryover

**LD 163 - An Act to Increase Communication Between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Lifetime License Holders by Requiring Free License Renewals Under Certain Circumstances**

[View Report Back \(PDF\)](#)

- **Result:** No law was passed, bill died.

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### Resolve

**[RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 26](#) – (L.D. 491) Resolve, to Require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Develop a Plan for Communication Regarding Certain Municipal Regulation**

*(Effective: October 25, 2023)*

- The resolve asked IFW to develop a plan to inform municipalities about the limits on local regulation of hunting, fishing and trapping and the operation of watercraft, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. The department was asked to coordinate with a statewide organization representing municipalities to create a distribution scheme for the information using a multimedia approach to this situation. **The department was tasked with submitting a report with the plan and distribution scheme, together with any necessary legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on IFW no later than January 1, 2024.** The committee was authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature (2024).
- **Result:** IFW provided a report back on its efforts to educate municipalities. The department suggested they would like to continue to work with Maine Municipal Association without having a law in place that directs specific work. A frequently asked question document to help municipalities was created and sent through various methods to many town authorities across Maine. No law was passed but the Legislative Committee expressed an expectation that the Department would continue its educational and outreach efforts.
- [FINAL Resolve 26 Report Back.pdf \(maine.gov\)](#)
- [View FAQ on Town Ordinance Authority over MDIFW Matters \(PDF\)](#)

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### Resolve

**[RESOLVE 2023 CHAPTER 36](#) - (LD 831) Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Examine Issues Related to Moose Hunting Seasons**

*(Effective: October 25, 2023)*

Resolve directing IFW to establish a stakeholder group to study season conflicts among other issues related to the moose hunt and report back in 2024.

**Examination.** That IFW shall establish a stakeholder group to examine issues and make recommendations related to the timing and length of moose hunting seasons and strategies to reduce conflicts during moose hunting seasons.

**Stakeholder group.** That IFW shall invite participation from at least the following:

1. A Senate member of the Joint Standing Committee on IFW;
2. A House member of the Joint Standing Committee on IFW;
3. A member of the IFW Advisory Council under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10151;
4. A member of a statewide organization representing professional guides;
5. A member of a statewide organization representing sporting camp owners;
6. A representative of a large private landowner;
7. A representative of an entity managing recreational access in the North Maine Woods;
8. A member of a statewide organization representing trappers;
9. A representative of the moose viewing industry;
10. A representative of the tourism industry;
11. A representative of municipal interests;
12. A representative of a statewide association representing hunters;
13. A Maine game warden; and
14. A department wildlife biologist.

The department may hold public meetings to gauge public support for any recommendations that are developed by the stakeholder group.

**Report.** That IFW shall report on any findings and recommendations resulting from the examination under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on IFW by January 15, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

The Report can be viewed here: [View Moose Stakeholder Report Back \(PDF\)](#)

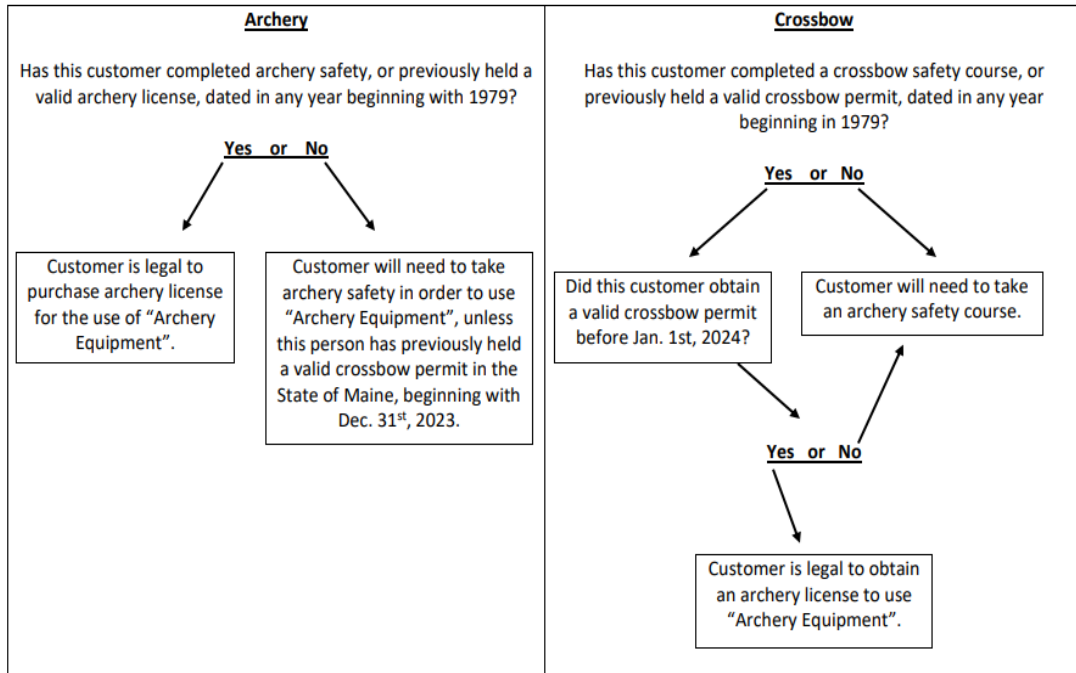
**Result:** No law was passed but the Legislative Committee asked IFW to conduct a user survey pr



# Diagrams Archery/Crossbow New Law

## Diagram for the new archery/crossbow law, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

- Below are two avenues that explain when a person can purchase an archery license to use "Archery Equipment", which will apply to ALL license holders, regardless of age or active holdings.
- "Archery Equipment" means a bow or crossbow. (Title 12, section 10001, subsection 3-B).



# Hunter Orange Wear Requirement Diagram

## Hunter Orange Clothing Requirement



Crossbow and Firearms

### Two Articles of Orange Required

- When hunting ANY species with a firearm or crossbow during the firearms or muzzleloader season for deer, this includes deer hunting Youth Days
  - Example: When hunting ruffed grouse during the firearms season on deer, you must wear two articles of orange



### One Article of Orange Required

- When hunting ANY species with a firearm or crossbow in a WMD open to moose hunting
  - Example: When hunting ruffed grouse in a WMD open to moose hunting, you must wear one article of orange; when grouse hunting in a WMD closed to moose and deer hunting, no orange is required



### No Articles of Orange Required

- Waterfowl Hunting - Must be hunting from a boat, blind, or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys.
- When hunting ANY species with a bow and arrow
- When hunting wild turkey, bear, small game, or furbearers with a firearm or crossbow - Unless that WMD is open to moose hunting or during a firearms or muzzleloader season for deer



Vertical Bow

### Bow and Arrow Hunters

When hunting with bow and arrow, hunter orange is not required. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife recommends bow and arrow hunters wear at least one article of orange when navigating through the landscape during firearms and muzzleloader season on deer and during open moose hunting seasons.