



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 142

LR 99(01)

An Act To Give the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Rule-making Authority To Establish a Bear Season Framework and Bag Limits

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Rep. Martin of Eagle Lake

Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$60,543	\$60,543	\$60,543	\$60,543
Revenue				
General Fund	(\$60,543)	(\$60,543)	(\$60,543)	(\$60,543)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) to establish bear hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits through rule-making and reduces the fee charged for a resident bear hunting permit from \$27 to \$10. Based on the number of permits issued before the fee was increased in 2002, IFW estimates that a lower permit fee will increase the number of permits issued by approximately 1815 annually compared to the 4,629 issued annually on average under current law, partially offsetting the lower fee. The net difference is a revenue loss of \$60,543 annually starting in fiscal year 2021-22. Any additional costs to IFW as a result of the rule-making process for bear hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.