



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

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Legislative Document

No. 1653

S.P. 552

In Senate, December 21, 2011

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### **An Act To Make Fisheries and Wildlife Projects Eligible for Tax Increment Financing**

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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 Taxation 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 CRAFTS of Lisbon and

Senators: HASTINGS of Oxford, MARTIN of Kennebec, PATRICK of Oxford,

WOODBURY of Cumberland, Representatives: 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. 30-A MRSA §5222, sub-§10-A** is enacted to read:

3 **10-A. Fisheries and wildlife project.** "Fisheries and wildlife project" means a  
4 project approved by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife undertaken for the  
5 purpose of improving public access to fisheries and wildlife resources of the State for  
6 fishing, hunting, research or observation or for conservation or improvement of the  
7 fisheries and wildlife resources of the State.

8 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5223, sub-§3, ¶A,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 413, §3, is  
9 further amended to read:

10 A. At least 25%, by area, of the real property within a development district must  
11 meet at least one of the following criteria:

- 12 (1) Must be a blighted area;
- 13 (2) Must be in need of rehabilitation, redevelopment or conservation work  
14 including fisheries and wildlife projects; or
- 15 (3) Must be suitable for commercial or arts district uses.

16 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§1, ¶C,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 101, §14  
17 and c. 102, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

18 C. Costs related to economic development, environmental improvements, fisheries  
19 and wildlife projects, recreational trails or employment training within the  
20 municipality or plantation, including, but not limited to:

- 21 (1) Costs of funding economic development programs or events developed by  
22 the municipality or plantation or funding the marketing of the municipality or  
23 plantation as a business or arts location;
- 24 (2) Costs of funding environmental improvement projects developed by the  
25 municipality or plantation for commercial or arts district use or related to such  
26 activities;
- 27 (3) Funding to establish permanent economic development revolving loan funds  
28 or investment funds;
- 29 (4) Costs of services to provide skills development and training for residents of  
30 the municipality or plantation. These costs may not exceed 20% of the total  
31 project costs and must be designated as training funds in the development  
32 program;
- 33 (5) Quality child care costs, including finance costs and construction, staffing,  
34 training, certification and accreditation costs related to child care;
- 35 (6) Costs associated with new or existing recreational trails determined by the  
36 department to have significant potential to promote economic development,  
37 including, but not limited to, costs for multiple projects and project phases that  
38 may include planning, design, construction, maintenance, grooming and

1 improvements with respect to new or existing recreational trails, which may  
2 include bridges that are part of the trail corridor, used all or in part for all-terrain  
3 vehicles, snowmobiles, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or other related  
4 multiple uses;

5 (7) Costs associated with a new or expanded transit service, limited to:

6 (a) Transit service capital costs, including but not limited to: transit vehicles  
7 such as buses, ferries, vans, rail conveyances and related equipment; bus  
8 shelters and other transit-related structures; and benches, signs and other  
9 transit-related infrastructure; and

10 (b) In the case of transit-oriented development districts, ongoing costs of  
11 adding to an existing transit system or creating a new transit service and  
12 limited strictly to transit operator salaries, transit vehicle fuel and transit  
13 vehicle parts replacements; and

14 (8) Costs associated with the development of fisheries and wildlife projects; and

15 **Sec. 4. Fisheries and wildlife projects; rules.** The Department of Inland  
16 Fisheries and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Community  
17 Development, shall adopt rules establishing standards and a process for approval of  
18 fisheries and wildlife projects eligible for tax increment financing under the Maine  
19 Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 206.

## 20 SUMMARY

21 This bill authorizes the use of tax increment financing for fisheries and wildlife  
22 projects approved by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Projects must be  
23 undertaken for the purpose of improving public access to fisheries and wildlife resources  
24 of the State for fishing, hunting, research or observation or for conservation or  
25 improvement of the fisheries and wildlife resources of the State.