



Report Back

**Provided to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland
Fisheries & Wildlife**

**On Public Law Chapter 283
(LD 1241) An Act to Establish the Make Change for
Wildlife Program to Support the Maine Endangered
and Nongame Wildlife Fund**

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

February 2, 2026

SUMMARY OF LAW

Public Law Chapter 283 (LD 1241) does the following:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10253, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10253, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Make Change for Wildlife program. The Make Change for Wildlife program is established to encourage voluntary support for the fund from businesses that collect voluntary customer contributions at the point of sale. Businesses shall deposit contributions collected under this subsection with the Treasurer of State and designate those contributions for deposit in the fund. The Treasurer of State shall credit all contributions to the fund and all money generated pursuant to this subsection must be used only for the purposes described in subsection 1.

Sec. 3. Report. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall submit a report regarding the Make Change for Wildlife program, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10253, subsection 6, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than January 1, 2026. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

REPORT BACK

The Make Change for Wildlife program is a voluntary program that was established by LD 1241, *An Act to Establish the Make Change for Wildlife Program to Support the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund* in the first session of the 132nd Legislature. Implementation of the Make Change for Wildlife program is still in its initial phases. In collaboration with Maine Audubon, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife plans on launching a pilot of the program with select businesses throughout the state this year. Throughout the summer and fall of 2025, conversations regarding program participation with several businesses including local restaurants and nationwide retailers took place. Importantly, given this program uses a novel approach to acquiring support for a state fund, approaching its launch deliberately is critical to ensure its long-term success. Maine Audubon is prepared to help support the Department in launching the program and has offered any outreach or accounting support that would be required of administering this program. At this time, the Department does not recommend any additional legislation.