

# Support LD 1826: An Act to Create a Committee to Recommend Ways to Reduce the Threat of Additional Invasive Species Infestation and Spread

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**Summary:** Requires formation of a subcommittee of the existing Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species that will make findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to combat threats of invasive species expansion with a biennial report to agencies and the legislature.

**Public Hearing:** Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m., Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

**Recent legislative efforts to advance risk-reduction measures for invasives species spread have failed in large part due to disagreement of how best to move forward. This subcommittee:**

- Will bring together staff from multiple agencies and organizations working in the field to discuss practical solutions for reducing invasive species risk in Maine.
- Can work through questions and issues that have in the past come up during committee hearings and stalled progress of protective risk-reducing measures.
- Will be able to move informal discussions into a more meaningful format to help agencies, organizations, and legislators understand the issues and value prioritized approaches.

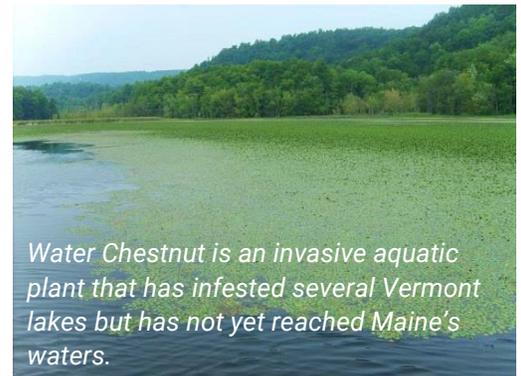
## Why Should We Be Concerned About Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species?

**Invasive plants harm recreational opportunities, water quality, wildlife habitat and local economies.**

- Invasive aquatic plants are usually introduced into lakes and ponds when they hitchhike on boats and their associated equipment.
- Once introduced, invasive species grow and spread rapidly, outcompeting native plants, degrading habitat for fish and other wildlife, and in some cases decreasing property values.
- An aquatic invasive plant, Eurasian watermilfoil (present in 3 Maine lakes), reduced Vermont lakefront property values up to 16% and Wisconsin lakefront property values by 13% (Zhang and Boyle, 2010).

**Maine has limited capacity to fight additional invasive species infestations.**

- More than 30 Maine lakes and rivers are infested with 6 different invasive species.
- Maine's nonprofits and lake associations bear the brunt of invasive species management and removal work. Courtesy Boat Inspection efforts are at or beyond capacity throughout the state.
- Funding from the Department of Environmental Protection supports much of these efforts but even with recent increased revenue through the Lake and River Protection Sticker, there is not enough funding to support existing prevention and control needs.
- Additional infestations pose major challenges to existing management strategies and organizational/agency capacities.



**Maine has yet to deal with some of the worst aquatic invaders.**

- Maine is surrounded by states with more severe invasive infestations of more and different invasive aquatic species, putting Maine's lakes at great risk for additional infestations as boats move across state lines and between water bodies.
- Draining water from motors, live wells, and bilges is a recommended practice for reducing the spread of devastating animal aquatic invaders from nearby states, including Spiny Water Flea and several species of invasive mussels that can travel in microscopic larval forms.

## **Additional Resources and Information for Invasive Species:**

Maine Department of Environmental Protection: [www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives](http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives)

Maine Natural Areas Program: [www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/invasives.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm)

Lakes Environmental Association: [mainelakes.org/invasives](http://mainelakes.org/invasives)

Maine Lakes: [www.lakes.me/invasives](http://www.lakes.me/invasives)

Friends of the Cobboosee Watershed: [watershedfriends.com/programs/mil-foiler/invasive-aquatic-plants/](http://watershedfriends.com/programs/mil-foiler/invasive-aquatic-plants/)

30 Mile River Watershed Association: [30mileriver.org/programs/invasive-plant-patrol/](http://30mileriver.org/programs/invasive-plant-patrol/)

## **You can help pass this important bill!**

Committee members need to hear from you about the need for a more productive path forward for invasive species management. For tips on writing compelling testimony, visit [www.lakes.me/take-action#Testify](http://www.lakes.me/take-action#Testify)

**To either speak at the hearing or submit written testimony:** Visit [www.legislature.maine.gov](http://www.legislature.maine.gov), and click on the "Testimony Submission" button (bottom, right). Choose Public Hearing, then select Environment and Natural Resources Committee at the bottom of the page. Select the date (Jan 10) and check the box for LD 1826. Then:

- **To submit written testimony**, upload your document (Word or PDF). You can also type text directly into the submission box. Below that, add your full name, town or organization in Maine (either full time or part time/seasonal residence), email and phone.
- **To speak at the public hearing**, fill out the contact information as above but also click the box that says "I would like to present my testimony live". You'll then see an added box to indicate if you support, oppose or are neutral on the bill. Although written testimony is not required, feel free to upload testimony at this time if you'd like the committee to have a written record of your comments.

**To listen to or watch public hearings**, visit [www.legislature.maine.gov](http://www.legislature.maine.gov) and click on the links at the top center of the page.

***Your voice makes a big difference.  
Thank you for speaking up on behalf of Maine's lakes!***

