

Maine Youth Camp Association

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To: Maine Summer Camps/MYCA members

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Legislative Update #4

Here is an update of Legislative activities on behalf of MYCA.

1. **Trip Leader Permits:** Jack Erler presented proposed amended regulations at the IF&W Advisory Council; comments were well received without objection. Also attending were Greg Shute, Spencer Ordway, Chris Wentworth, Ron Fournier and Reid Anderson . The comment period in the Advisory Council process ends on April 5. There are a few more steps in the review before the regular rule amendment process. This time table suggests that there will be no change in the Trip Leader Permit rules for the summer of 2013.
2. **Summer Work & Travel Visas:** MYCA continues to study this issue as it relates to the how minimum wage should be calculated for international *support staff* (not counselors). This issue is not nationwide and only affects Maine and 6 or 7 other states that require minimum wage for non-counselor camp workers. There is no Maine law that prohibits the accounting for minimum wage as is now being done for SWT students in Maine camps. There may be Federal tax withholding regulations applicable to this issue that Jack is looking into. More information to follow as it develops.
3. Jack testified neither for or against LD 337 **An Act To Require That Burn Injuries and Wounds Be Reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal** indicating that if the bill were to pass MYCA requests that camp be permitted to make any required burn reports to DHHS as it is currently required to regarding other injuries and not separately to the Fire Marshal's office. There was opposition to this bill expressed by the medical society and hospitals. We anticipate that the bill if it passes will be changed in a way that does not negatively affect camps.
4. Greg Shute testified in opposition to LD 269 **An Act To Provide Increased Opportunities on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway** that would increase the maximum size of groups on the Allagash from 12 to 24. He was joined by 4 other persons who testified that groups larger than 12 would have a negative impact on the wilderness experience and that larger groups would be in violation of the just adopted new Allagash Waterway Management Plan. We will continue to work the bill.