

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 258

S. P. 94

In Senate, January 20, 1971
Referred to Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary
Presented by Senator Shute of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Hunting with Muzzle-loading Rifles.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 12, § 1901, sub-§ 13-A, additional. Section 1901 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding a new subsection 13-A to read as follows:

13-A. Muzzle-loading rifle. "Muzzle-loading rifle" means a firearm intended and designed to be fired from the shoulder and loaded only from the muzzle or front end by means of a ramrod; barrel length to be not less than 16 inches.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 12, c. 322, additional. Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 322 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 322

MUZZLE-LOADING RIFLE HUNTING

§ 2511. Open season

There shall be an open season from October 1st to October 14th in the Northern Zone as described in section 2353 for the purpose of hunting deer with muzzle-loading rifles.

There shall be an open season during the month of October in the Southern Zone as described in section 2353 for the purpose of hunting deer with muzzle-loading rifles.

§ 2512. Licenses; tags

A muzzle-loading hunting license shall be issued by the commissioner to take deer under this chapter, the fee for which shall be \$5.25 for residents of

this State and \$15.25 for nonresidents; the fee of 25¢ to be retained by the issuing agent; except that such muzzle-loading licenses shall also permit the hunting of such wild birds and animals which can be legally hunted from October 1st to October 14th of each calendar year in the Northern Zone and during the month of October in the Southern Zone. Muzzle-loading deer tags shall be issued for use in the same manner as regular deer tags. If a person does take a deer with a muzzle-loading rifle during the special season as provided in section 2511, he is precluded from further hunting for deer during that year. If a person does not take a deer with a muzzle-loading rifle during the special season provided in section 2511, he is not precluded from obtaining a hunting license for the regular open season.

Section 2401, subsection 1 shall not apply to muzzle-loading licenses.

No resident under the age of 10 years and no nonresident under the age of 12 years shall hunt with muzzle-loading rifles at any time. Any resident between the ages of 10 and 16 and any nonresident between the ages of 12 and 16, who hunts deer under section 2511 shall purchase a muzzle-loading license with the written consent of parent or guardian and shall be accompanied at all times while hunting by parent or guardian or an adult approved by parent or guardian.

§ 2513. Equipment

Deer may be taken under this chapter only by means of a muzzle-loading rifle of no less than .36 caliber.

§ 2514. Applicability of provisions

Except as provided in this chapter, the provisions of chapters 301 to 335 relating to deer or hunting shall be applicable to the taking of deer with muzzle-loading rifles.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as permitting the hunting of deer in any area where a continual closed season on deer has been established by statute.

§ 2515. Registration

All deer killed under this chapter shall be inspected by a warden before being registered under section 2355. If the warden finds the deer to have been legally killed by muzzle-loading rifle he shall approve the deer for registration. If it appears to the warden that the deer was not legally killed with muzzle-loading rifle he shall seize the deer and prosecute the offender.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This legislation would provide an additional 2 weeks of deer hunting in the Northern Zone and one month additional in the Southern Zone for sportsmen who may wish to hunt game with muzzle-loading rifles of .36 caliber or more. A separate hunting license would be required to participate in the sport.