

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1722

H. P. 1612

Office of the Clerk of the House

Governor's Bill. Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Mr. Dow of West Gardiner.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT Relating to Hunter Safety.

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

12 MRSA § 7101, sub-§ 8, ¶'s A and B, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, § 1, are amended to read:

A. The commissioner ~~upon receiving a report of the wounding or killing of a human being~~ may bring a complaint in the Administrative Court seeking to revoke or suspend the current hunting license or the privilege to obtain a hunting license of any person who ~~while on a hunting trip or in the pursuit of wild animals or wild birds, is alleged to have shot and wounded or killed that human being~~ he reasonably believes to have killed, wounded or recklessly endangered the safety of another human being while hunting. The Administrative Court shall revoke or suspend the person's license or privilege ~~for a period not to exceed 5 years~~ if it finds that the person, while hunting, has killed, wounded or recklessly endangered the safety of another human being and the public safety will be endangered by the person's retention of his license or privilege.

B. Any person described in paragraph A whose hunting license has been revoked or suspended, or whose right to hunt or the right to obtain a hunting license ~~for a period not to exceed 5 years~~ has been denied, may, after the expiration of one year from the date of the revocation or suspension, petition the commissioner for restoration of his privilege to procure such a license.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The law currently allows the Administrative Law Court to suspend a hunting license or privilege to hunt only in the event a reckless hunter wounds or kills another person. This bill allows the Administrative Law Court to revoke or suspend a license or privilege upon a finding that the hunter recklessly endangered the safety of another person while hunting.