

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-333)
110TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 218, L.D. 255, Bill, "AN ACT to Provide a Special Muzzle-loading Hunting Season."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7001, sub-§23-A is enacted to read:

23-A. Muzzle-loading firearm. "Muzzle-loading firearm"

means a rifle that is:

- A. Forty caliber or greater;
- B. Capable of firing only a single charge;
- C. Equipped with a barrel 20 inches or more in length;
- D. Loaded through the muzzle with powder and a ball or bullet;
- E. Ignited by a percussion cap or priming charge of a flint, match or wheel lock mechanism.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7107 is enacted to read:

§7107. Muzzle-loading hunting license

1. Eligibility. Any person who will be 16 years of age or older at the beginning of the special season in subsection 4 may obtain a muzzle-loading hunting license from the commissioner or his authorized agent.

2. Issuance. The commissioner, through his agents, shall issue a muzzle-loading license to eligible persons. The issuing agent shall charge a fee of \$1 for each license issued.

3. Schedule of fees. The fees for muzzle-loading rifle licenses are as follows:

A. Resident 3-day muzzle-loading rifle license.....\$ 7

B. Nonresident 3-day muzzle-loading rifle license....\$30

C. Alien 3-day muzzle-loading rifle license.....\$45

4. Open season. There shall be a special muzzle-loading open season on deer consisting of the 3 business days immediately following the open season on deer, as described in section 7457, subsection 1, paragraph A, for the purpose of hunting deer with muzzle-loading rifles only.

5. Restrictions. The following restrictions apply during the muzzle-loading open season.

A. A muzzle-loading rifle equipped with any type of telescope or telescope sight may not be used during any special muzzle-loading open season.

B. Deer tags for the muzzle-loading open season shall be issued for use in the same manner as regular deer tags.

C. If a person takes a deer during any open season on deer, he is precluded from further hunting for deer during that year.

D. Except as provided in this section, chapters 701 to 721 relating to deer shall be applicable to the taking of deer with muzzle-loading rifles.

Sec. 2-A. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§20, ¶A, sub-¶(2), as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read:

(2) A person who has a valid permit to carry a concealed weapon may have in or on a motor vehicle or trailer a loaded pistol or revolver covered by such permit; and

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§20, ¶A, sub-¶(3), as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read:

(3) Paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from motor vehicles which are not in motion; and

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§20, ¶A, sub-¶(4) is enacted to read:

(4) A muzzle-loading rifle is deemed to be legally transportable by vehicle if the percussion cap or flint is removed from the ignition system, even though the rifle may have powder and lead in the breach of the barrel.

Fiscal Note

If 15% of the big game hunters take part in a special muzzle-loading season, this ^{amendment} / will raise approximately \$325,000 per year to the ^{Inland Fisheries} / and Wildlife Dedicated Revenue Account. Approximately \$184,000 will be from resident license sales and \$141,000 from nonresident license sales.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment creates a special 3-day season for hunting deer with muzzle-loading rifles only. The season will consist of the 3 ^{days} business/immediately following the regular firearms open season on deer.

Reported by the Committee on Fisheries & Wildlife.
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.