

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
110TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

L.D. 255  
(Filing No. H-519)

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE 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; and
- 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, provided that that  
person possesses a valid license to hunt big game.

2. Issuance. The commissioner, through his agent, 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, for the purpose of hunting deer with muzzle-loading rifles. The commissioner may terminate this open season at any time in any area if, in his opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to adverse weather conditions or severe hunting pressure.

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 apply  $\leftarrow$   $\rightarrow$  to the taking of deer with muzzle-loading rifles.

6. Repeal. This section is repealed on March 1, 1983.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§8, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, is amended to read:

C. Has in or on a motor vehicle or trailer any firearm with a cartridge or shell in the chamber or in an attached magazine, clip or cylinder, or a muzzle-loading firearm with powder and lead in the breech 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 each 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 establishes a 3-day open season on deer for hunters using muzzle-loading rifles only. The season will follow the regular open season on deer and the Commissioner of Fisheries and Wildlife may terminate the season if he determines emergency conditions warrant.

A hunter must have a valid big-game muzzle-loading license to participate in the muzzle-loading season. If a person kills a deer during any other open season, he may not participate in the special open season.

Section 3 of this amendment clarifies the prohibited acts related to carrying loaded firearms in vehicles. Muzzle-loading

firearms will be considered loaded if they have power and lead in the breech, even if the percussion cap or flint is removed from the ignition system.

Reported by the Committee of Conference on L.D. 255.  
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

6/2/81

(Filing No. H-519)