

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EMERGENCY
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1565

H. P. 1389

House of Representatives, April 28, 1981

Reported from the Joint Standing Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Order, H. P. 1388.

Reported by Representative Clark from the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife and Printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Establish the Open Season on Bear.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, bear hunting is an important part of Maine's heritage, and contributes to an industry that is vital to the economic well-being of certain areas of the State; and

Whereas, with proper management, bear will continue as a renewable resource for present and future generations; and

Whereas, recent rules closing the spring bear hunting season are not necessary to protect bear populations, but seriously disrupt the plans of many Maine citizens who have invested time and money in anticipation of this season; and

Whereas, this disruption will cause severe financial hardship unless the season is reestablished for this year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

12 MRSA § 7451, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Open and closed season. There shall be the following open season on hunting and trapping bear.

A. There shall be an open season on hunting bear in all areas of the State from May 1st to June 13th and from October 1st to November 28th for the 1981 calendar year.

B. There shall be an open season on trapping bear in all areas of the State from September 1st to October 31st for the 1981 calendar year.

C. There shall be a closed season on using a dog or dogs in conjunction with bear hunting at all times, except from October 1st to the last day prior to the regular firearms season on deer.

D. The commissioner may terminate the spring hunting season on bear if the number of bear harvested during that open season exceeds 500, and he may terminate the fall hunting season on bear if the number of bear harvested during that open season exceeds 500.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is set out in the emergency preamble.