## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

**Legislative Document** 

No. 543

H.P. 362

House of Representatives, February 11, 2025

An Act to Enhance Maine's Wildlife Conservation Efforts and Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage by Requiring Hunter Safety Education in Schools

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARDELL of Monticello.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, NUTTING of Oakland, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SWALLOW of Houlton, THORNE of Carmel,

Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, HARRINGTON of York.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4710-D is enacted to read:
3	§4710-D. Instruction in firearm hunter safety
4 5 6 7	1. Firearm hunter safety. The elements of a firearm hunter safety course must be taught in all public and private schools, and successful completion of the course is required for graduation from all secondary schools. The course, or its elements, must be taught no later than grade 9 and must address the following topics:
8	A. Survival and first aid practices;
9	B. Landowner relations;
10	C. Hunter ethics;
11	D. The State's hunting laws;
12	E. Hands-on practice of safe firearms handling;
13	F. Hands-on instruction of map and compass usage and outdoor survival; and
14	G. Wildlife conservation and biology.
15 16 17 18	2. Successful completion; certificate. A student who successfully completes a firearm hunter safety course under this section is entitled to a hunter safety certificate provided by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and satisfies the requirement in Title 12, section 11105.
19	SUMMARY
20 21 22 23 24	This bill adds a requirement that the elements of a firearm hunter safety course must be taught no later than grade 9 in all public and private schools in Maine. Successful completion of the course will result in the issuance to the student of a hunter safety certificate that satisfies the safety course requirement for obtaining an adult hunting license in Maine.