

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 751

H.P. 493

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws Related to the Training of Dogs
and Open Training Seasons**

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick for the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 172, section 2.

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** a provision of law allowing for the training of dogs to hunt bear in portions
4 of Washington County and Hancock County is due to be repealed on May 1, 2025; and

5 **Whereas,** allowing this provision to lapse could have implications for unwanted bear-
6 landowner interactions; and

7 **Whereas,** enactment of this legislation would continue to authorize the training of
8 dogs for bear hunting in portions of Washington County and Hancock County; and

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

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

14 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12051, sub-§1, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 2023, c. 172, §1, is
15 amended to read:

16 D. Notwithstanding paragraph C, ~~until May 1, 2025,~~ in those portions of Washington
17 County and Hancock County that are situated south of Route 9, a resident may train up
18 to 6 dogs at any one time on bear from July 1st to the 4th day preceding the open season
19 on hunting bear except that permission is required to train dogs on land used for wild
20 blueberry production.

21 ~~This paragraph is repealed May 1, 2025.~~

22 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
23 takes effect when approved.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill continues a provision in law related to the training of dogs for bear hunting
26 scheduled to be repealed May 1, 2025.