

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/6/26 Majority L.D. 2054 (Filing No. H- 976)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1378, L.D. 2054, "An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Moose Hunting Permits for Hunting Outfitters"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 184, §3, is amended to read:

2. Issuance of moose hunting permits. In accordance with section 11552, the commissioner may issue moose hunting permits and may establish the number of moose hunting permits to be issued for each wildlife management district established by the commissioner by rule open to moose hunting. No more than 8% of the moose hunting permits may be issued to nonresidents. No more than ~~2%~~ 5% of the moose hunting permits may be issued to hunting outfitters in accordance with subsection 44 14-A.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§14, as amended by PL 2017, c. 458, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§14-A is enacted to read:

14-A. Moose hunting lodge permits. A moose hunting permit issued to a hunting outfitter, referred to in this section as a "moose hunting lodge permit," must be allocated through a public chance drawing separate from the public chance drawing under subsection 9. The fee for a moose hunting lodge permit is \$1,500.

A. For the purposes of this subsection, "hunting outfitter" means a person that operates a sporting camp, as defined in Title 22, section 2491, subsection 11, that is licensed under Title 22, chapter 562 and:

- (1) Offers a package deal that includes food, lodging and the services of a hunting guide licensed under chapter 927 for the purpose of hunting;**
- (2) Offers the services of a hunting guide licensed under chapter 927 for at least 3 months per year; and**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 (3) Has provided guided moose hunts in the State out of the sporting camp for at
2 least 3 of the last 5 calendar years.

3 B. The department shall develop an affidavit that a hunting outfitter that applies for a
4 moose hunting lodge permit must sign and attest that the hunting outfitter meets the
5 requirements of this section.

6 C. A hunting outfitter that applies for a moose hunting lodge permit and identifies the
7 wildlife management district in which the applicant's licensed sporting camp is located
8 as the hunting outfitter's first choice on the application will be given preference for a
9 permit in that wildlife management district in the public chance drawing under
10 subsection 9.

11 D. A hunting outfitter that receives a moose hunting lodge permit through the public
12 chance drawing described in this subsection may sell or transfer that permit only once,
13 only to a hunter who is eligible under paragraph H and only under the following
14 conditions:

15 (1) The sale or transfer must be part of a package deal that includes the food and
16 lodging to be provided by the hunting outfitter to the person receiving the moose
17 hunting lodge permit;

18 (2) The hunter receiving the moose hunting lodge permit from the hunting outfitter
19 must be accompanied during the hunt by a guide licensed under chapter 927;

20 (3) The hunting outfitter must notify the department of the identity of the hunter
21 receiving the moose hunting lodge permit;

22 (4) The moose hunting lodge permit may not be sold or transferred by the hunter;
23 and

24 (5) The hunting outfitter may not buy, barter or sell or offer to buy, barter or sell
25 a moose hunting lodge permit or the authority granted by a moose hunting lodge
26 permit issued under this subsection to another hunting outfitter.

27 E. A hunting outfitter may be allocated more than one moose hunting lodge permit
28 through the public chance drawing described in this subsection.

29 F. A moose hunting lodge permit may be used only for the year, season, sex and
30 wildlife management district for which the permit is issued except that:

31 (1) A moose hunting lodge permit may be swapped with any other moose hunting
32 lodge permit; and

33 (2) A moose hunting lodge permit may not be swapped with a permit allocated
34 under the public chance drawing under subsection 9 unless the original hunting
35 outfitter that was awarded the moose hunting lodge permit wishes to swap for
36 purposes of relocating that hunting outfitter's hunt to the wildlife management
37 district where that hunting outfitter's licensed facility is located.

38 G. Moose hunting lodge permits allocated under this subsection may not exceed 5%
39 of the total moose hunting lodge permits issued under this section per year for each
40 season, sex and wildlife management district permit type.

1 H. A resident or nonresident who is eligible to obtain a Maine hunting license or who
2 will be eligible to obtain a Maine hunting license by the opening day of the open moose
3 season is eligible to hunt with a moose hunting permit issued under this subsection.

4 I. A hunter who obtains a moose hunting lodge permit is ineligible to apply for or
5 obtain a permit from the public chance drawing under subsection 9 until the 4th
6 calendar year after the issuance of the last permit.

7 J. If proceeds in any year from the auction authorized under subsection 11 are less than
8 \$107,000, proceeds from the sale of moose hunting lodge permits must be used to fund
9 youth conservation education programs as provided under subsection 11 in an amount
10 of up to \$107,000. The remainder must be deposited in the Moose Research and
11 Management Fund under section 10263.

12 K. A recipient of a moose hunting lodge permit may not sell a subpermittee or an
13 alternate subpermittee designation.

14 L. The commissioner may authorize a person who holds a moose hunting lodge permit
15 to defer the permit pursuant to subsections 12 and 17.

16 **Sec. 4. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to update moose**
17 **hunting lodge permit public chance drawing system.** The Department of Inland
18 Fisheries and Wildlife shall update the moose hunting lodge permit public chance drawing
19 system under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 11154, subsection 14-A to allow
20 an applicant to indicate on the permit application the applicant's preference for moose
21 hunting season and wildlife management district with the goal of reducing the need for
22 hunting outfitters to swap permits.'

23 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
24 number to read consecutively.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This amendment replaces the bill. It makes changes to how moose hunting lodge
27 permits are allocated and directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to make
28 changes to the moose hunting lodge permit public chance drawing system to allow
29 applicants to indicate a preference on the permit application for moose hunting season and
30 wildlife management district to reduce the need for permit swaps.

31 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

32 (See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2054

LR 2632(02)

An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Moose Hunting Permits for Hunting Outfitters

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-976)

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to implement the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.