

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F O U R T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1180

S. P. 540

In Senate, March 2, 1949.

Taken from the table by Senator Bowker of Cumberland and referred to Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Slocum of Cumberland by request.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Reduce Hunting Fatalities and Firearm Accidents in the
Woods and Fields of Maine.**

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

R. S., c. 33, § 29-A, additional. Chapter 33 of the revised statutes, as revised, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 29-A, to read as follows:

'Hunters' Examination Boards

Sec. 29-A. Hunters' examination boards. Hunters' examination boards shall be appointed by the governor and council in each town, plantation and city in the state. Each board shall consist of not more than 5 members, except the cities, which may have more, to serve 1 year without pay. Every member must be a veteran of either world wars with at least 3 years active service, or a reserve or national guard officer, or a certified rifle instructor of the national rifle association. Every prospective member must submit to local authorities prior to appointment, documentary proof that he is a veteran of 3 years active service, or a reserve or national guard officer or a certified instructor of the national rifle association for transmission to the governor by the 10th of March yearly.

The board shall examine every applicant for a hunting license in its jurisdiction. If, in its opinion, the applicant cannot prove knowledge of basic safety rules in the handling of firearms as laid down in army regulations or in the safety rules of the national rifle association, the board shall have authority to forbid the issuing of a hunting license to the applicant for 1 year. The decision of the board shall be determined by a majority vote.

No town, plantation or city clerk will issue hunting licenses without written permission of the majority of the board.

During and 8 weeks prior to the hunting season, the board will meet regularly every Saturday afternoon for purposes of examining applicants for hunting licenses.

On application of local authorities, the governor may grant permission for several adjacent towns to combine under authority of one licensing board.

Eight weeks prior to the hunting season, the commissioner of inland fisheries and game shall have published in the local newspapers throughout the state a warning of regulations on hunting and a table of safety rules, these to appear regularly at least once a week for 8 weeks.'