

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
September 5, 1996 to September 7, 1996

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 1996 to March 27, 1997

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 27, 1997 to June 20, 1997

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 26, 1997

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 19, 1997

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1997

11. Freedom from restraint and interference.

The court may order either spouse to refrain from imposing any restraint on the personal liberty of the other or interfering with the personal privacy of the other and may order other conditions necessary to ensure the peaceful coexistence of the parties.

12. Modification and termination of separation decrees. A separation decree may be modified or is terminated as follows.

A. Upon motion by either party served in accordance with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4, and after notice and hearing, the court may order the modification of a separation decree upon showing of a substantial change of circumstances justifying the modification. However, that portion of the separation decree disposing of the parties' property in accordance with section 953 is not subject to modification and remains in full force.

B. Upon the filing of a written declaration signed and acknowledged by both parties stating that they have resumed marital relations, the separation decree terminates. However, that portion of the separation decree disposing of the parties' property in accordance with section 953 is not subject to termination and remains in full force.

C. Upon entry of a final judgment of divorce between the parties, the separation agreement terminates. However, that portion of the separation decree disposing of the parties' property in accordance with section 953 is not subject to termination and remains in full force.

13. Joinder with divorce action. If a complaint or counterclaim seeking a divorce pursuant to section 901 is filed in an action in which a complaint or counterclaim seeking a separation decree has also been filed, the court shall order the dismissal of the complaint or counterclaim seeking a separation decree if the court grants a divorce.

14. Inheritance not barred. A separation decree does not bar the spouses or the issue of the marriage from inheriting.

15. Fraud. The court may not grant a judicial separation when the parties seek to procure a judicial separation for fraudulent purposes.

Sec. 5. Effective date. This Act takes effect on October 1, 1997.

Effective October 1, 1997.

CHAPTER 225

H.P. 686 - L.D. 950

**An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws
As They Pertain to Antlerless Deer**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7457, sub-§1, ¶H, as amended by PL 1993, c. 574, §21, is further amended to read:

H. The commissioner may regulate the taking of antlerless deer within any area of the State, as necessary, to maintain deer populations in balance with available habitat if the following conditions are met.

(1) The demarcation of each area must follow recognizable physical boundaries such as rivers, roads and railroad rights-of-way.

(2) The determination must be made and published prior to August 1st of each year.

(3) The application fee for a permit to take an antlerless deer may not exceed \$1. The application must include a detachable portion on which the applicant shall write the applicant's name and address and to which the applicant shall affix a stamp of adequate postage. The department shall return this portion of the application to the applicant in acknowledgement of the department's receipt of the application.

(4) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the administration, implementation, enforcement and interpretation of this subsection, except that there may not be an antlerless deer permit system unless otherwise specified in this paragraph.

(5) An antlerless deer permit system adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section may include a provision giving special consideration to landowners who keep their lands open to hunting by the public. Any 2 or more areas of land owned by the same person that are open for hunting and that would be contiguous except for being divided by one or more roads are considered contiguous for the purposes of determining landowner eligibility for special consideration under this subparagraph.

See title page for effective date.