

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 2024 to March 21, 2025

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 25, 2025 to June 25, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 20, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

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

Augusta, Maine
2025

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

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

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

~~This paragraph is repealed May 1, 2025.~~

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

Effective April 18, 2025.

CHAPTER 28

H.P. 523 - L.D. 816

An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets

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

Whereas, this legislation amends the law governing the emptying of elver fyke nets; and

Whereas, it is important that this legislation take effect immediately in order for these changes to be in place before the beginning of the next elver fishing season in March 2025; and

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

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6505-A, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 81, §1, is further amended to read:

1-A. Licensed activity. The holder of an elver fishing license or elver fishing license with crew may fish for, take or possess elvers. The holder of an elver fishing license or elver fishing license with crew may transport and sell within state limits elvers that the license holder has taken. The holder of an elver fishing license with crew is liable for the licensed activities under this subsection of an unlicensed crew member assisting that license holder pursuant to subsection 1-B.

The license holder to whom a tag is issued or the unlicensed crew member may empty an elver fyke net. The license holder to whom a tag is issued may allow an individual who also holds an elver fishing license to empty the elver fyke net of the license holder whose tag is on the net while under that license holder's direct supervision.

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

Effective April 18, 2025.

CHAPTER 29

H.P. 4 - L.D. 40

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Commercial Large Game Shooting Area License Transfer Process

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §1342, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 765, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §1342, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Transfer of license. A person may not transfer a commercial large game shooting area license without obtaining approval of the commissioner for the transfer. Department approval must be obtained prior to the transfer of the license. The department, at its discretion, may require that the proposed new licensee apply for a new license or may approve the transfer of the existing license upon a satisfactory showing that the proposed new licensee can abide by the license terms and conditions and comply with subsection 2.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §1342-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 249, §6, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

A license issued under this section is for a specific parcel of land and only for the genus and species of large game specified in the license. The requirements and restrictions under section 1342, subsections 3, 4, ~~§ 5-A~~, 6 and 7 and rules adopted under subsection 8 apply to licenses issued under this section. A person issued a license under this section shall establish and maintain the licensed commercial large game shooting area in accordance with section 1342, subsection 2, paragraphs A to E.

See title page for effective date.