

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

CHAPTER 43

H.P. 753 - L.D. 1148

**Resolve, Directing the
Secretary of State to Study
Providing Access to Absentee
Ballots for Municipal Elections
to Uniformed Service Voters or
Overseas Voters in the Same
Manner as Absentee Ballots for
Statewide Elections**

Sec. 1. Department of Secretary of State to study providing access to absentee ballots for municipal elections to uniformed service voters or overseas voters in same manner as absentee ballots for statewide elections. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State shall study the feasibility of and methods for providing digital access to and receipt of local absentee ballots for uniformed service voters or overseas voters from a municipality holding an election on the same date as a statewide election. In conducting this study, the Department of the Secretary of State may consult with members of an association representing town and city clerks.

Sec. 2. Department of Secretary of State to update information provided to uniformed service voters or overseas voters regarding access to and return of local absentee ballots. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State shall update its publicly accessible website or the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act absentee ballot retrieval service portal, as applicable, to include clearly and conspicuously that local absentee ballots must be obtained from the uniformed service voter's or overseas voter's municipality of residence and that the process for applying for, receiving and returning absentee ballots through the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act absentee ballot retrieval service portal applies only to statewide and federal elections. The Secretary of State shall make easily accessible the contact information for each municipality in the State.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 3, 2025, the Secretary of State shall submit a report based upon the study in section 1, including an update on the information required under section 2, along with any recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, which may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 44

H.P. 857 - L.D. 1322

**Resolve, to Establish a Pilot
Program to Enhance Youth
Hunting Participation**

Sec. 1. Youth participation in hunting pilot program. Resolved: That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, referred to in this resolve as "the department," in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism, shall establish through rulemaking a 2-year pilot program to run for calendar years 2026 and 2027 to increase youth participation in hunting. The program must include expanded youth hunting seasons and outreach initiatives.

Sec. 2. Program components. Resolved: That the 2-year pilot program under section 1 consists of the following components.

1. The department shall schedule the youth spring wild turkey hunting day pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 11701, subsection 3 during a period with increased availability for youth hunters, such as a long weekend, or the department may establish a 2-day season on a Friday and Saturday.

2. The department shall establish a 2-day youth bear hunting season on a Friday and Saturday during a time when youth are more likely to be able to participate, such as late summer or early fall.

3. The department shall establish a day for youth hunting with dogs prior to the start of the regular season for hunting with dogs pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 11251, subsection 1.

4. The pilot program must include a robust public relations and social media campaign aimed at increasing awareness of youth hunting opportunities and promoting responsible and safe hunting practices.

5. The pilot program must include collaboration with community organizations, schools and outdoor retailers to host informational and educational events.

6. The department must invite the participation of hunting organizations, local communities and conservation groups to ensure the pilot program meets community and environmental standards.

Sec. 3. Rules. Resolved: That the department, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism, shall adopt rules to implement the 2-year pilot program under section 1, including but not limited to setting specific dates for the pilot program and establishing participation guidelines and reporting requirements. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.