

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 644

H. P. 491

House of Representatives, January 27, 1965

Referred to Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Millay of Bowdoinham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT Permitting the Establishment of Private Shooting Preserves.

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

R. S., T. 12, c. 320, additional. Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 320 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 320

PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVES

Sec. 2471. Licenses. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game may issue licenses authorizing the establishment and operation of private shooting preserves. The fee for each such license shall be \$25. Unless sooner revoked, all such licenses shall be valid from July 1st to June 30th. Any license issued for the calendar year of 1965 shall be valid through June 30, 1966.

Sec. 2472. Boundaries. Each shooting preserve shall contain not less than 200 acres nor more than 500 acres of leased or owned land, except that those preserves whose operations are confined only to ducks may contain a minimum of 50 acres. Not more than 1% of the gross land area of any county shall be licensed. The exterior boundaries of each preserve shall be clearly defined with signs erected at intervals of 150 feet or less.

Sec. 2473. Birds. Birds which may be hunted under authority of a shooting preserve license shall be limited to such artificially propagated species as the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game may prescribe. Not less than 100 birds of any species to be so hunted shall be released on the licensed premises during the shooting preserve season in any one year.

Sec. 2474. Hunting percentage. The licenses herein provided for shall en-

title the holders thereof and their lessees and licensees to take, by hunting, the percentage of each species released on the premises each year as the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game may determine.

Sec. 2475. Tags. Each and every bird of the species permitted to be taken under authority of a shooting preserve license, before being consumed on the premises or removed therefrom, shall have affixed thereto a tag or seal furnished at a cost of 5c each to the operator of the shooting preserve by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game. The tag shall remain affixed to the bird until it is prepared for consumption.

Sec. 2476. State law governs. No wild bird or wild animal of a species other than permitted to be hunted under authority of the license provided shall be hunted or killed on any shooting preserve, except in accordance with the laws of this State governing the hunting of such species.

Sec. 2477. Hunting license required. Hunting licenses as provided in section 2401 shall be required of all persons hunting on shooting preserves, except that in lieu thereof any person may obtain a special shooting preserve hunting license upon paying to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game or his authorized agent a fee of \$5.

Such licenses when issued shall be valid from July 1st to June 30th and shall authorize the licensee to hunt only on licensed shooting preserves and only for the species for which the shooting preserve is licensed in accordance with this chapter and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder.

Sec. 2478. Duties of operator. Each operator of a shooting preserve licensed under this chapter shall maintain a record of the names, addresses and hunting license numbers of all persons hunting upon the preserve, together with the date upon which they hunted, the number and kind of each species taken, and the tag or seal numbers affixed to each carcass. The operator shall maintain an accurate record of the total number, by species of birds propagated, reared or purchased and the date and number of all species released. The records shall be open for inspection by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game or his representative at any reasonable time.

Sec. 2479. Application for license. Any person desiring a license under this chapter shall make application therefor to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game on forms furnished by him, stating his name, address, legal description of the premises to be licensed, the kind of birds to be covered by the license, and such other information as the commissioner may require. The commissioner shall prepare and distribute suitable forms necessary to carry out this chapter.

Sec. 2480. Open season; rules and regulations. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game is authorized to establish the open season for shooting preserves which shall be not less than 120 days, promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, governing the administration of this chapter as he may deem expedient.

Sec. 2481. Disposition of fees. All moneys received from the sale of licenses and tags or seals as provided shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Game Protection Fund.

Sec. 2482. Penalties. Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations adopted shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100, together with costs of prosecution, or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by both in the discretion of the court. In addition to the penalty provided, any license issued under this chapter may be suspended or revoked, after a hearing upon proper notice, when any operations under it fail to comply with the requirements of this chapter, and whenever any licensee shall be convicted of a violation of this chapter, his license may be revoked and any birds held under such license shall then be disposed of only in a manner approved by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game.'