

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 106

H. P. 99

House of Representatives, January 7, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Martin of Saint Agatha.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Establishing an Experimental Open Season on Moose.

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

12 MRSA, § 2355-E, is enacted to read:

§ 2355-E. Moose season

1. Open season established. There shall be a controlled open season on moose for 2 successive years beginning in 1975 within the hunting district described.

2. Length of season. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game is authorized to establish the beginning and closing date of the open season on moose for the years 1975 and 1976.

3. Districts. There shall be one moose hunting district described as follows: All of Units 1 and 2 of the Wildlife Management Units, excluding therefrom all of Baxter State Park.

4. Hunting permits. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game is authorized to issue not more than 700 moose hunting permits for Units 1 and 2 for the 1975 season. For the 1976 season, the commissioner may, if he deems it advisable, issue not more than 700 moose hunting permits for Units 1 and 2. Such domiciled resident permits shall be issued for a fee of \$15. A regular hunting license, in addition to a moose permit, shall be required to hunt moose. Permits shall be chosen by chance drawing. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game may determine the appropriate number of permits to be issued. To be eligible for the official drawing, at which time such permits shall be drawn, it shall be necessary for applicants to file a written application to be furnished by the commissioner within 30 days after the

effective date of this Act, for the year 1975, and August 1st for the year 1976. The fee for such application shall be \$2 which shall not be refunded.

5. Registration of harvested moose. All moose legally harvested must be presented for inspection to allow collecting of biological and hunting data and shall be assessed a fee of \$50 for registration. All moose taken legally shall be subject to the same requirements for deer under section 2355.

6. Bag limit. The bag limit shall be one moose of either sex per licensed hunter.

7. Authority of commissioner. The commissioner is authorized to issue applications for moose hunting permits, issue permits and make all rules and regulations pertaining thereto. The commissioner is authorized to divide the designated area open to moose hunting into zones and to designate the number of permits to be issued for each zone, not to exceed 700 in the entire area. The commissioner is authorized to designate the type of weapons which shall be lawful and make all other rules and regulations which he deems necessary for the protection of the moose resource.

8. Hunting animals other than moose in designated moose area prohibited. It shall be unlawful during the open season on moose to hunt any wild animal within the designated area open to moose hunting.

9. Closing of moose season. If, during the open season on moose, it shall be the opinion of the commissioner that more moose are being killed in the district indicated than is in the best interests of conserving said species, he shall have the authority to terminate such season at once.

10. Fish and game employees prohibited from obtaining moose hunting permits. No employee of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game shall be eligible to obtain a moose hunting permit during the experimental period.

11. Reapplication prohibited. No person who receives a moose hunting permit during the 1975 season is eligible to apply for a 2nd moose hunting permit for the following year.

12. Precedence of this section. Any moose legally taken under this section shall not be in violation of section 2467.

13. Penalties. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section or rules and regulations promulgated thereunder shall be punished, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by both. Also, upon conviction, the commissioner shall suspend the hunting license for a period of 3 years.

FISCAL NOTE

The passage of this Act would bring an increased revenue to the State of \$128,000 for the fiscal year 1975-76.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will establish an experimental open hunting season on moose.