

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 198

H. P. 168

House of Representatives, January 15, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Usher of Westbrook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Establishing a Controlled 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; open season

There shall be a controlled open season on moose within the hunting district described for Maine residents only.

Dates for the controlled open season on moose shall be from September 27, 1976 to October 2, 1976.

There shall be one moose hunting district whose boundaries shall be determined by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game.

The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game is authorized to issue not more than 500 moose hunting permits to Maine residents for the 1976 season. These permits shall be issued at a fee of \$25. 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 for the year 1976. The fee for such application shall be \$1 which shall not be refunded.

All moose legally harvested must be presented for inspection to allow collecting of biological and hunter data, and shall be assessed a fee of \$15 for registration. All moose taken legally shall be subject to the same requirements as for deer under section 2355.

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

The commissioner is authorized to issue applications for moose hunting licenses, issue licenses 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 500 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 may deem necessary for the protection of the moose resource.

It shall be unlawful during the open season on moose to hunt any wild animal within the designated area open to moose hunting.

If, during any 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.

No employee of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game shall be eligible to obtain a moose hunting license during the experimental period.

Any moose legally taken under this section shall not be in violation of section 2457.

Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section or rules and regulations promulgated hereunder shall be punished, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment of 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

It is estimated that passage of this bill would result in a revenue increase of approximately \$60,000.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to update the biological and hunter data on the Maine moose population by establishing a controlled open season on moose for approximately one week during 1976.