

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 311, L.D. 374, Bill, "AN ACT to Permit Hunting with Muzzle-loading Rifle."

Amend said Bill in the title by striking out the word "Rifle" and inserting in place thereof the word 'Firearms'

Further amend said Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'12 MRSA, c. 322, is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 322

MUZZLE-LOADING FIREARMS

§ 2521. Definition

In this chapter, a muzzle-loading firearm is a firearm of no less than .45 caliber, with a flintlock or percussion cap type of ignition system, which loads through the front end of the barrel.

§ 2522. Open season for hunting deer and bear with muzzle-loading firearms

There shall be an annual open season for a period of one week excluding Sundays, immediately preceeding the regular firearms season on deer in the Southern Zone only, for the purpose of hunting deer and bear with muzzle-loading firearms only. During this annual open season, any person hunting deer or bear with a muzzle-loading firearm shall possess a license for hunting with a muzzle-loading firearm issued by the commissioner.

§ 2523. Licenses

A muzzle-loading firearm license shall be issued by the commissioner to hunt deer and bear during the annual open season under section 2522. The fee for this license shall be \$5 for Maine

residents of 16 years of age or older and shall be \$30 for nonresidents of 16 years of age or older. The commissioner shall not issue a license to any person who has not attained the age of 16 years by the first day of the annual open season under section 2522.

Muzzle-loading firearm deer tags and bear tags shall be issued in the same manner as regular deer tags and bear tags.

If any person takes a deer or a bear with a muzzle-loading firearm during the annual open season under section 2522, he is precluded from further hunting for deer or bear during that year. If a person does not take a deer or bear with a muzzle-loading firearm during the annual open season under section 2522, he is not precluded from obtaining a hunting license for the regular open season.

Section 2401, subsection 1 shall apply to muzzle-loading firearm licenses.

§ 2524. Transportation of muzzle-loading firearms

A muzzle-loading firearm shall be deemed to be legally transportable by vehicle under section 2456 if the percussion cap or flint is removed from the ignition system, even though the firearm may have powder and lead in the breach of the barrel. All other provisions of section 2456 shall apply to hunting with muzzle-loading firearms.

§ 2525. Applicability of provisions

Except as provided in this chapter, the provisions of chapters 301 to 335 relating to deer and bear shall be applicable to the taking of deer and bear with muzzle-loading firearms.

§ 2526. Deer

All deer killed under this chapter shall be inspected by a warden before being registered under section 2355. If the warden finds the deer to have been legally killed with a muzzle-loading firearm,

he shall approve the deer for registration. If it appears to the warden that the deer was not legally killed with a muzzle-loading firearm, he shall seize the deer and prosecute the offender.

§ 2527. Bear

All bear killed under this chapter shall be inspected by a warden before being registered under section 2355-C. If the warden finds the bear to have been legally killed with a muzzle-loading firearm, he shall approve the bear for registration. If it appears to the warden that the bear was not legally killed with a muzzle-loading firearm, he shall seize the bear and prosecute the offender.

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to permit hunting with muzzle-loading firearms in the Southern Zone.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

5/9/75

(Filing No. H-276)