

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 70

H. P. 49 House of Representatives, January 12, 1977  
Referred to Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence  
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. MacEachern of Lincoln.  
Cosponsor: Mr. Tozier of Unity.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Establishing an Experimental Open Season on Moose.**

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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 during the year 1977 within the hunting district described.
2. Length of season. Any controlled open season on moose under this section shall be determined by the commissioner.
3. Districts. There shall be one moose hunting district described as follows: All of Units 1 and 2 of the wildlife management units, excluding all of Baxter State Park.
4. Hunting permits. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is authorized to issue not more than 500 moose hunting permits for Units 1 and 2 for the 1977 season. These domiciled Maine resident permits shall be issued for a fee of \$25. A regular hunting license, in addition to a moose hunting permit, shall be required to hunt moose. Permits shall be chosen by chance drawing. To be eligible for the official drawing, at which time these permits shall be drawn, applicants shall file a written application to be furnished by the commissioner as soon as possible after the effective date of this section. The fee for such application shall be \$3 which shall not be refunded. No complimentary moose hunting permit shall be issued.

5. Registration of harvested moose.

A. All moose legally harvested shall be reported to an inland fisheries and wildlife warden for inspection to allow collecting of biological and hunting data. No fee shall be assessed for registration.

B. Inland fisheries and wildlife wardens shall register each moose reported for registration, and shall attach a metal seal to each moose in the manner as directed and with materials furnished by the commissioner.

(1) No person shall at any time in any manner move or transport any moose, or part of it, unless it is open to view and there is securely attached to it the moose tag portion of the moose hunting permit bearing the name and address of the person who killed the moose. Such a moose shall be accompanied by him while being moved or transported.

(2) Any person killing a moose under this section shall present it for registration to an inland fisheries and wildlife warden and that moose shall be registered in his name.

(3) No person shall present a moose for registration or allow to be registered in his name any moose which he himself did not lawfully kill.

C. No person shall keep a moose at his home, or at any place of storage, except at the office of an inland fisheries and wildlife warden, more than 12 hours unless that moose has been legally registered.

D. Prior to presenting a moose for registration, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess or to leave in the fields or forests a moose which he has killed which does not have securely attached to it, the moose tag portion of his moose hunting permit bearing his full name and address. Any moose so found, to which the moose tag portion of that permit has not been attached, shall be seized and disposed of as directed by the commissioner.

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

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 the species, he shall have the authority to terminate that season at once.

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

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

12. **Penalties.** Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section or rules and regulations promulgated under it shall be guilty of a Class E crime. Also, upon the conviction of any person under this section, the commissioner shall suspend for a period of 3 years all licenses issued to that person by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

#### FISCAL NOTE

The passage of this Act should bring an approximately increased revenue to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife of \$172,500 for the fiscal year 1977-78.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to change provisions relating to the establishment of an open season on moose, to the length of that season, to the issuance of moose hunting permits, to the registration of harvested moose, to the authority of the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife under this bill and to the penalties contained in this bill.