

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1495

H. P. 1298

House of Representatives, April 12, 1977

Reported by Mr. MacEachern from Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife.  
Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed under Joint Rules No. 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

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 firearms season on moose for the year 1977 within the hunting district described in subsection 3.

2. Length of season. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is authorized to establish an October season of 6 consecutive days, the beginning and closing dates to be determined by the commissioner.

3. District. There shall be one moose hunting district described as follows: All of Units 1, 2 and 5 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 600 moose hunting permits for Units 1, 2 and 5 for the 1977 season. A valid Maine resident hunting license, in addition to a Maine moose permit, shall be required to hunt moose. Permits shall be chosen by public chance drawing. Prior to the issuance of such permits, proof of residence must be provided by all persons chosen. To be eligible for the official drawing, at which time such permits shall be drawn, it shall be necessary for an applicant to submit a written application and a fee of \$3 to the department. These applications shall be provided by the commissioner

and obtainable from resident license agents. Fees shall not be refunded. Each hunter selected may then choose one individual possessing a valid Maine resident hunting license to hunt with him or her. The 2 hunters, or single hunter, as the case may be, will receive one moose permit to be carried on the person of the permittee. The permittee may also hunt alone if he chooses, but the selected subpermittee must always be accompanied by the permittee. There shall be no charge for this permit.

5. Bag limit. The bag limit shall be one moose of either sex per permit holder. In the case of a permittee and a selected subpermittee, the permit will allow one of them to take one moose.

6. Weapons permitted. Shotguns larger than .410 guage using rifled slugs only and all other firearms, except handguns and rim fires, shall be considered legal for hunting moose.

7. Registration of harvested moose.

A. All moose legally harvested must be presented for inspection at official registration stations to be established by the commissioner to allow collecting of biological and hunting data. The entire animal must be presented, although it may be dismembered for ease of transportation. However, the head and legs must be intact. A fee of \$30 shall be assessed for registration.

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

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

(2) Any person killing a moose under this section shall present it for registration at an official registration station 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. Except as provided in section 2951, no person shall keep a moose at his home, or at any place of storage, except at an official registration station or at the office of an inland fisheries and wildlife warden, for 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 forest a moose which he has killed which does not have securely attached to its head, and plainly visible, the moose tag portion of his 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.

8. **Giving moose away; labels.** Notwithstanding subsection 7, paragraph B, subparagraph (1), no person shall have in his possession any part or parts of a moose given to him unless each separate part is plainly labeled with the name and address of the person who registered the moose and the name and address of the person to whom it was given and, if that part is transported by any 3rd party, the name and address of the party transporting the same be affixed thereto. This subsection shall not apply to any moose or parts of moose being transported by a Maine licensed transportation company, including common carriers, in accordance with other provisions of chapters 301 to 337.

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

10. **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 make all other rules and regulations which he deems necessary for the protection of the moose resource.

11. **Each permittee and subpermittee shall complete a questionnaire.** Each permittee and subpermittee shall complete a questionnaire, to be provided by the commissioner, and return this questionnaire to the commissioner within a period of 10 days after the close of the moose hunting season.

12. **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.

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

14. **Penalties.** Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section or rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, except violations of subsection 7, paragraph C and subsection 11, shall be punished, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 and by imprisonment of not less than 3 nor more than 5 consecutive days for the first offense, and by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 and by imprisonment of not less than 10 nor more than 15 consecutive days for each succeeding offense. No punishment under this section shall be suspended. Any firearms seized in connection with a violation of this section shall be retained by the State pending disposition of criminal proceedings and sold at public auction by the State upon conviction. In addition, the commissioner may suspend the hunting license of a convicted violator for a period of 3 years. Violations of subsection 7, paragraph C and subsection 11 shall be punishable under section 3060.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will establish a one-year restricted, experimental, open hunting season on moose for residents of Maine. The passage of this bill would bring revenue to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife of approximately \$150,000 for fiscal year 1977-78. It is the intent of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that at least 50% of this revenue, not to exceed \$80,000, be spent by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the study and management of the Maine moose herd.