

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. S-84)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S. P. 39, L.D. 25, Bill,
"AN ACT to Permit Deer Hunting with Muzzle-loading Rifles."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the
amending clause and inserting in its place the following:

'CHAPTER 322

MUZZLE-LOADING RIFLES

§2521. Definition

In this chapter, a muzzle-loading rifle is a rifle of no
less than .44 caliber, with a flintlock or percussion cap type
of ignition system, which uses only black powder, round or maxi
balls and loads through the front end of the barrel.

§2522. Open season for hunting deer with muzzle-loading rifles

There shall be an annual open season for^{the} purpose of hunt-
ing deer with muzzle-loading rifles, as defined in section
2521. This season shall be subject to the discretion of the
~~Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council~~ and may not
be for more than 3 days. The season shall follow the open
season on deer in any area of the State open to the hunting of
deer. During this annual open season, any person hunting deer
with a muzzle-loading rifle shall possess a permit for hunting
with a muzzle-loading rifle issued by the commissioner and shall
also possess a license to hunt deer under section 2401.

§2523. Permits

A muzzle-loading rifle permit shall be issued by the com-
missioner to hunt deer during the annual open season under sec-
tion 2522. The fee for this permit shall be \$7.50 for Maine
residents of 16 years of age or older and shall be \$15 for non-

residents of 16 years of age or older. The commissioner may not issue a permit to any person who has not attained the age of 16 years by the first day of the annual open season under section 2522.

All requests for muzzle-loading rifle permits shall be submitted prior to November 1st of each year. Fees for these permits may not be refunded.

Section 2401, subsection 1, shall apply to muzzle-loading rifle permits.

§2524. Registration of deer

All deer killed during the muzzle-loading rifle deer season shall be registered in accordance with section 2355, except for the following provisions.

If a person kills a deer at any time prior to the muzzle-loading rifle deer season, he may not kill a deer under this chapter.

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

§2525. Applicability of provisions

Except as provided in this chapter, chapters 301 to 337 relating to deer shall be applicable to the taking of deer with muzzle-loading rifles.'

Fiscal Note

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife estimates the enforcement costs of this bill would be approximately \$10,000 each year from the dedicated revenue of that department.

Revenues collected from sale of licenses for the special muzzle-loading season would be very small since hunting with muzzle loaders is permitted in the regular open season for deer.

Statement of Fact

This amendment reduces the proposed season to 3 days, and requires applications for permits to be filed prior to November 1st of each year. This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

Reported by the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.

April 4, 1979

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