

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 25**

S. P. 39

Office of the Secretary of the Senate, January 9, 1979

Presented by Senator Perkins of Hancock.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Permit Deer Hunting with Muzzle-loading Rifles.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

12 MRSA c. 322 is enacted to read:

**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, subject to the discretion of the Fish and Game Advisory Committee, an annual open season during the 6 days, excluding Sunday, following the open season on deer in any area of the State open to the hunting of deer, for the purpose of hunting deer with muzzle-loading rifles only. During this annual open season, any person hunting deer with a muzzle-loading rifle shall possess a license for hunting with a muzzle-loading rifle issued by the commissioner and shall also possess a license to hunt deer under section 2401.

**§ 2523. Licenses**

A muzzle-loading rifle license shall be issued by the commissioner to hunt deer 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 \$15 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 rifle deer tags shall be issued in the same manner as regular deer tags.

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

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

**§ 2524. Transportation of muzzle-loading rifles**

A muzzle-loading rifle 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 rifle may have powder and lead in the breach of the barrel. All other provisions of section 2456 shall apply to hunting with muzzle-loading rifles.

**§ 2525. Applicability of provisions**

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

**§ 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 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.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The purpose of this bill is to permit hunting deer for a limited period following the regular open season with muzzle-loading rifles.