

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-77)  
109TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 78, L.D. 36, Bill, "AN ACT  
to Establish a Bounty on Coyote."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of the title and inserting  
in its place the following:

'AN ACT to Establish a Limited Open Hunting and Trapping Season  
on Coyote.'

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

'12 MRSA §2365 is enacted to read:  
§ 2365. Hunting and trapping of coyote

1. Hunting. There shall be a continual open hunting season  
on coyotes in all wildlife management units of the state.
2. Trapping - regular season. There shall be an open trapping  
season on coyotes in all wildlife management units during the  
months of October, November, December and continuing through  
January of the next calendar year, the specific dates  
to be established by the commissioner.
3. Trapping - special season. There shall be a special  
trapping season on coyotes during the entire month of December  
and continuing through January of the next calendar year.
4. Special trapping permit. A coyote trapping permit shall  
be required to trap during the special coyote trapping season.

Upon application and an accompanying \$2 fee, the commissioner  
shall issue a permit, providing the applicant possesses a valid  
Maine trapping license.

The application shall designate, to the satisfaction of the commissioner, the location at which the applicant intends to trap.

5. Equipment. Traps of the number 3 or number 4, single spring, double coil or double long spring type shall be considered the legal traps for coyotes during the special coyote season.'

#### Fiscal Note

The \$2 application fee coupled with an existing 25¢ per pelt tagging fee shall more than adequately compensate the department for the administration of this legislation.

#### Statement of Fact

The northeastern coyote is well established in Maine.

In several parts of the State they pose a serious threat to livestock and wildlife.

The purpose of this amendment is to establish a realistic trapping season for coyotes.

Presently, the coyote trapping season is held during the same season as bobcat, fox, fisher, mink and other valuable fur bearers.

With the high price of fur, e.g., bobcats, \$125, fox, \$75 and fisher, \$125 per pelt, there is inadequate interest among trappers to pursue coyotes at \$40 to \$60 per pelt, the least valuable of the group.

This amendment would provide an incentive for trappers by extending the coyote trapping season by 2 months immediately following ~~the regular~~ season.