

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1445

H. P. 1188

House of Representatives, March 26, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Rolde of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Provide for more Humane Trapping of Wild Animals.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 2405, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 770, § 69, is amended to read:

§ 2405. Trap restrictions

It shall be unlawful for any person to use auxiliary teeth on any leg hold trap set on land.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 2460, as amended by PL 1971, c. 85, § 17, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 2460. Pole traps

It shall be unlawful for any person to set or use any steel trap or snare set at the top of a pole, or along its inclined surface, or attached to a tree or sapling in any manner that will catch any wild bird or animal so that its body hangs free with its weight suspended from the trap or snare. Whoever violates this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in section 3060.

STATEMENT OF FACT

These changes to the trapping laws will ensure that trapping will be conducted more humanely. Pole sets trap arboreal animals, which fall and dangle from the trap until they die. Auxiliary teeth on traps cause additional suffering and have already been prohibited on traps set on land. This bill would prohibit both these activities.