

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1895

H. P. 1763

House of Representatives, January 25, 1980.

On Motion of Mr. MacEachern referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Mr. MacEachern of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Prohibit Nylon Coated and Plastic Covered Bullets.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 7406, sub-§ 17, ¶¶ L and M, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, § 1, are amended to read:

L. Uses artificial lights between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise the next day to illuminate, jack, locate, attempt to locate or show up wild animals or wild birds from September 1st to December 15th of each calendar year; ~~or~~

M. Hunts any wild animal or wild bird by any method other than the usual method of shooting with a firearm not larger than number 10-gauge, shooting with a long bow and arrow or by falconry; **or**

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 7406, sub-§ 17, ¶N is enacted to read:

N. Knowingly manufactures, causes to be manufactured, possesses, uses, sells or furnishes cartridges containing nylon coated or plastic covered bullets.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA § 7406, sub-§ 20, ¶B, div. (1), as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, § 1, is amended to read:

(1) Paragraphs A, B, C, D, E, ~~and~~ **F and N** shall not apply to military

organizations authorized by law to bear arms or to the National Guard in the performance of its duty;

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is designed to prohibit the manufacture, possession, use, sale or furnishing of nylon coated and plastic covered bullets. The processes by which the bullets are made, make it extremely difficult to make positive bullet identification by means of laboratory analysis. This is so because bullets which have been coated with nylon or covered with plastic do not possess sufficient individual characteristics when discharged from a firearm to permit positive ballistics identification. Positive bullet identification is an important part of investigations in homicide cases, hunting accidents and illegal game kills.

This bill also provides an exemption from the prohibition of nylon coated and plastic covered bullets to military organizations and the National Guard.