

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
110TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-236)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 455, L.D. 502, Bill, "AN ACT to Provide for a Closed Season on Black Bear from the First Monday Following Thanksgiving to September 1st."

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

Sec. 1.

12 MRSA §7451, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Open and closed season.

A. There shall be an open season on hunting bear from September 1st to November 30th annually.

B. There shall be an open season on trapping bear from September 1st to October 31st annually.

C. There shall be an open season on using a dog or dogs in conjunction with bear hunting from September 1st, to the business day next preceding the open season on deer provided in section 7457, subsection 1, paragraph A.

D. The commissioner may shorten the open seasons on bear as established in paragraphs A, B and C in any part of the State provided that:

(1) The demarcation of the areas with a shortened season follows recognizable physical boundaries such as rivers and railroad rights-of-way; and

(2) The decision is made and published prior to January 15th, of any year.

E. The commissioner may terminate the open season on bear as established in paragraph A, B and C at any time in any part of the State, if in his opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to adverse weather conditions or severe hunting or trapping pressure.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 1982.

Fiscal Note

The department does not have accurate figures on how many spring bear hunters there are.

Statement of Fact

This amendment provides that beginning January 1, 1982:

1. Bear may be hunted from September 1st to November 30th, annually;

2. Bear may be trapped from September 1st to October 31st annually; and

3. Bear may be hunted using dogs from September 1st to the business day next preceding the open season on deer.

The amendment also authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to shorten the season on bear if he clearly demarcates the areas closed and if he publishes his decision prior to January 15th of any year.

This amendment also authorizes the commissioner to terminate the open season in emergencies.

Reported by the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife.
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