

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1039

H. P. 870

House of Representatives, February 26, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative H. Higgins of Portland by request.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Authorize a Limited Hunting Season for Hunters Using Cross Bows.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 7102, sub-§ 5, ¶G, as repealed and replaced by PL 1979, c. 543, § 9, is amended to read:

G. A person shall not use a crossbow or set bow, **except as provided in chapter 709**;

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 7406, sub-§ 17, ¶G, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420, § 1, is amended to read:

G. Hunts any wild animal or wild bird with a crossbow, **except as provided in chapter 709**;

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA c. 709, sub-c. VI is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER VI

HUNTING WITH CROSSBOW

§ 7541. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. **Crossbow.** "Crossbow" means a bow limb mounted horizontally on a gun-like stock.

§ 7542. **Special open season on deer.**

There shall be a special open season from the first Monday of October to the beginning of the regular deer hunting season, as described in section 7547, for the purpose of hunting deer with a crossbow only.

§ 7543. **License; tags**

The commissioner shall issue a crossbow license which shall allow a person to hunt deer during the special crossbow season described in section 7542. Crossbow licenses and fees are established as follows:

1. Resident crossbow license	\$9
2. Combination resident crossbow hunting and fishing license, to be available from the department in Augusta only	\$16
3. Nonresident crossbow license	\$35

The issuing agent shall retain a fee of \$1 for each license issued. Crossbow deer tags shall be issued for use in the same manner as regular deer tags. If a person does take a deer with a crossbow during the open season on deer, he is precluded from further hunting for deer during that year.

Section 7377, subsection 1, shall not apply to crossbow licenses.

No resident under the age of 10 years and no nonresident under the age of 12 years may hunt with a crossbow at any time. Any resident between the ages of 10 and 16 years and any nonresident between the ages of 12 and 16 years, who hunts under section 7542, shall purchase a crossbow license with the written consent of a parent or guardian and shall be accompanied at all times while hunting by a parent or guardian.

§ 7544. **Equipment**

Deer may be taken under this chapter only by means of crossbows. No person may use arrows with either poisonous or explosive tips. No person may carry firearms of any kind while hunting with a crossbow.

§ 7545. **Safety course**

Before any crossbow license is issued pursuant to section 7543, the applicant for the license shall be required to furnish to the issuing agent proof, in a form to be designated by the commissioner, that the applicant has successfully completed a hunter safety course approved by the commissioner.

§ 7546. **Name and address on arrows**

No person may hunt deer pursuant to this chapter unless the name and address of that person is legibly printed on all arrows used by that person to hunt deer.

§ 7547. Applicability of provisions

Except as provided in this chapter, the provisions of chapters 701 to 721 relating to deer shall be applicable to the taking of deer with crossbows.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide a limited hunting for deer by the use of crossbows.

The crossbow is nothing more than the incorporation of the shooter's arms, hands and shoulders into a stock. This incorporation makes a more stable weapon that still has all the properties of the longbow. This addition of stability to the crossbow does not affect the velocity, range, energy or drop of the arrow. It only makes the crossbow easier to learn to use and more accurate at known distances. Under deer hunting circumstances, the accuracy of the longbow and the crossbow, when used by a competent archer, are equal. The only remaining difference is the ease of learning to use the crossbow competently.