

1 2	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3 4	ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5 6	Legislative Document No. 338
7 8	H.P. 268 House of Representatives, February 1, 1985 Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant
9	to Joint Rule 24. Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.
10	EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk Presented by Jacques of Waterville. Cosponsored by Senator Matthews of Winslow, Representative Greenlaw
11	of Standish and Senator Usher of Cumberland.
12 13	STATE OF MAINE
14 15 16	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17 18 19 20 21	AN ACT Authorizing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Continue to Regulate the Harvest of Antlerless Deer.
22 23	Ee it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
24 25 26	<pre>12 MRSA §7457, sub-§1, %H, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 624, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:</pre>
27 28 29 30	H. The commissioner may regulate the taking of antlerless deer within any area of the State, as necessary, to maintain deer populations in bal- ance with available habitat, provided that:
31 32 33	 The demarcation of each area shall fol- low recognizable physical boundaries such as rivers, roads and railroad rights-of-way;
34 35	(2) The determination is made and published prior to August 1st of each year;

- (3) Prior to implementation of an antlerless deer permit system, the department shall submit the proposed changes to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife, for review;
- 7(4) If an antlerless deer permit system is8implemented, the application fee for a per-9mit to take an antlerless deer shall not ex-10ceed \$1; and
- 11(5) The commissioner may adopt rules neces-12sary for the administration, implementation,13enforcement and interpretation of this sub-14section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 16 17 currently has authority to regulate the harvest of antlerless deer in any area of the State. This au-18 19 thority became effective on January 1, 1983, and is scheduled to terminate early in 1986. Without a 20 change in the current statute, Maine will be back to 21 either sex deer hunting on a statewide basis in the 22 fall of 1986. 23

This bill grants the commissioner the regulatory flexibility needed to rebuild Maine's deer herd and to maintain the herd at optimum levels in the years to come.

28 Under the provisions of this bill, the commissioner has authority to restrict the harvest of does 29 and fawns beyond 1985. Adoption of a doe permit sys-30 31 tem requires prior review by the Joint Standing Com-32 mittee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. If a doe 33 permit system were to be implemented in the future, 34 the application fee for a permit to take an 35 antlerless deer could not exceed \$1.

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