

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 902

7 H.P. 634

House of Representatives, March 1, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Ridley of Shapleigh.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Jacques of Waterville, Representative  
Michaud of Medway and Representative Lander of Greenville.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
16

17 AN ACT Relating to Coyote Control.  
18

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

21 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7074, sub-§6 is enacted to  
22 read:

23 6. Supersport license. The funds which repre-  
24 sent the difference between the fee for a resident  
25 supersport license and a resident combination hunting  
26 and fishing license shall be used for payments to  
27 trappers who have been selected by the department to  
28 participate in the department's Animal Damage Control  
29 Program.

30 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7108, sub-§§2, 3 and 4, as en-  
31 acted by PL 1983, c. 401, are amended to read:

32 2. Issuance. The commissioner shall issue a per-  
33 mit to hunt coyotes at night to eligible persons  
34 without any charge or fee at a fee of \$2.

1        3. Open season. Notwithstanding section 7406,  
2 subsection 5, there shall be an open season for hunt-  
3 ing coyotes at night in all counties of the State  
4 from January 1st to ~~February 28th~~ March 31st. The  
5 commissioner may terminate this open season at any  
6 time in any area if, in his opinion, an immediate  
7 emergency action is necessary due to adverse weather  
8 conditions or illegal hunting activity.

9        4. Restrictions. The following restrictions ap-  
10 ply during the open season for hunting coyotes at  
11 night.

12        A. All hunting shall be limited to the hours be-  
13 tween 1/2 hour ~~after~~ before sunset and 9 10 p.m.,  
14 and to the hours between 4 3 a.m. and 1/2 hour  
15 ~~before~~ after sunrise.

16        B- All hunting shall be limited to the use of  
17 shotguns only.

18        C- All hunting shall be limited to areas where  
19 the ground is completely covered with snow and to  
20 ice covered bodies of water.

21        D- No person may hunt coyotes at night within  
22 100 yards of any motor driven vehicle.

23        E. Any person hunting coyotes at night shall be  
24 in possession of an electronic, hand-held or  
25 mouth-operated predator calling device.

26        Sec. 3. 12 MRSA c. 723 is enacted to read:

27    CHAPTER 723

28    BOUNTIES

29        §7971. Coyote

30        There is a bounty of \$15 for every coyote which  
31 is killed within the State, to be paid by the Trea-  
32 surer of State to the person killing the coyote upon  
33 compliance with the following conditions. No bounty  
34 may be paid unless the claimant, within 10 days after  
35 he has killed the animal, exhibits to the warden or  
36 warden supervisor in whose district the animal was

1 killed the entire skin, with the ears, nose and tail  
2 in as perfect a state as when killed, except for nat-  
3 ural decay, and signs a certificate under oath stat-  
4 ing that he killed the animal and the time and place  
5 within the State. The certificate shall be approved  
6 by and bear the signature of the warden or warden su-  
7 pervisor in whose district the animal was killed,  
8 stating that he believes that the coyote was killed  
9 at the time and place stated. The warden or warden  
10 supervisor shall cut off the entire tail from the  
11 skin and destroy the tail. The person claiming the  
12 bounty shall forward to the commissioner the claim-  
13 ant's certificate in a form as prescribed by the com-  
14 missioner. Any claim for a bounty shall be made  
15 within 10 days after the killing of the animal.

16 Upon receipt by the State Controller of a certifi-  
17 cate from the commissioner, the controller shall au-  
18 dit the claim for bounty and the bounty shall be paid  
19 by the Treasurer of State to the claimant from fines  
20 and penalties recovered and money received or col-  
21 lected under any provision of the inland fisheries  
22 and wildlife laws, or for sale of any seized or con-  
23 fiscated articles. After those funds have been ex-  
24 hausted, any further bounties shall be paid from the  
25 revenues of the Department of Inland Fisheries and  
26 Wildlife.

27 STATEMENT OF FACT

28 The purposes of this bill are:

29 1. To establish a bounty on coyotes in order to  
30 remove a hazard to deer and other animals;

31 2. To establish a \$2 fee for a permit to hunt  
32 coyotes at night. The bill also extends the hours  
33 for night hunting of coyotes and the coyote hunting  
34 season and removes that restriction on coyote hunt-  
35 ing; and

