

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 927

7 S.P. 341

In Senate, March 5, 1985

8 Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant  
9 to Joint rule 24.

10 Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and  
ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Matthews of Kennebec.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Walker of Norway, Senator Usher of  
Cumberland and Representative Connors of Franklin.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Increase the Length of the Bear  
18 Hunting Season.  
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA 7451, sub-§1, ¶A, as repealed  
23 and replaced by PL 1981, c. 224, §1, is amended to  
24 read:

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

28 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7451, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by  
29 PL 1981, c. 644, §20, is further amended to read:

30 C. There shall be an open season on using a dog  
31 or dogs in conjunction with bear hunting from  
32 ~~September 1st~~ August 1st, to the day preceding  
33 the open firearm season on deer provided in sec-  
34 tion 7457, subsection 1.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2           Maine's black bear population is considerably  
3 larger than it was estimated to be during the  
4 mid-1970's. Recent studies conducted by the Depart-  
5 ment of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife together with a  
6 substantial increase in bear damage complaints, indi-  
7 cate that the black bear population is expanding be-  
8 yond acceptable levels.

9           The purpose of this bill is to provide the com-  
10 missioner with the flexibility to open the bear hunt-  
11 ing season one month earlier than the current law al-  
12 lows. Increasing the season framework will provide  
13 annual opportunity for a longer hunting season as  
14 necessary to keep black bear populations at optimum  
15 levels.

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