

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 450

H.P. 331

House of Representatives, February 27, 1989

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

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

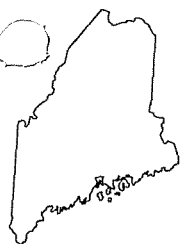
Presented by Representative MITCHELL of Freeport.

Cosponsored by Senator CLARK of Cumberland, Representative JACQUES of Waterville and Representative CHONKO of Topsham.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Require that Residents Have at Least the Same Chances of
Receiving Doe Permits as Nonresidents.**



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

3 **12 MRSA §7457, sub-§1, ¶H,** as repealed and replaced by PL
5 1985, c. 230, is amended to read:

7 H. The commissioner may regulate the taking of antlerless
9 deer within any area of the State, as necessary, to maintain
deer populations in balance with available habitat, provided
that:

11 (1) The demarcation of each area shall follow
13 recognizable physical boundaries such as rivers, roads
and railroad rights-of-way;

15 (2) The determination is made and published prior to
17 August 1st of each year;

19 (3) The commissioner may implement an antlerless deer
21 permit system, provided that, by March 1st of the year
23 of implementation, the department shall submit the
25 rules necessary for the system to the joint standing
committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
inland fisheries and wildlife for review, comment and
submission of any necessary legislation;

27 (4) If an antlerless deer permit system is
29 implemented, the application fee for a permit to take
an antlerless deer shall not exceed \$1;

31 (5) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the
33 administration, implementation, enforcement and
35 interpretation of this subsection, except that there
shall be no antlerless deer permit system unless
otherwise specified in this paragraph; and

37 (6) Subparagraph (3) shall be repealed 30 days after
39 the submission by the department to the committee of
the rules necessary for a permit system; and

41 (7) In the State as a whole and in any subdistricts
43 into which the State may be divided for the purpose of
45 issuing permits for antlerless deer, the percentage of
resident applicants who receive a permit shall be at
least as great as the percentage of nonresident
applicants who receive a permit.

47
49 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

51 Current law allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife to issue rules for the antlerless deer (doe) permit

1 program. These rules divide the State into 17 districts and
2 specify a certain number of permits for each district. Licensed
3 hunters apply for these permits and successful applicants are
4 chosen by a drawing, with the stipulation that 85% of the permits
5 are to go to residents. This 85% figure matches the percent of
6 all hunting licenses that are sold to residents. The result of
7 this system has been that in about half of the districts,
8 particularly those in the southern part of the State, the percent
9 of resident applicants who obtain a permit is lower than the
10 percent of nonresident applicants.

11
12 This bill requires that for each district the percent of
13 resident applicants for an antlerless deer permit who receive a
14 permit must be at least as high as the percent of nonresident
15 applicants who receive a permit.