

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 495

H.P. 364

House of Representatives, February 28, 1989

Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ed Pert'.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative GREENLAW of Standish.

Cosponsored by Representative WALKER of Norway and Representative CARROLL of Southwest Harbor.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Amend the Framework Dates During which the
Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife May Establish a Deer
Hunting Season.**



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

3 **12 MRSA §7457, sub-§1, ¶A,** as amended by PL 1981, c. 414,
5 §31, is further amended to read:

7 A. There shall be an open season on deer in each calendar
9 year in all counties of the State from the 5th Monday
11 preceding Thanksgiving to ~~November 30th~~ December 5th.

13 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

15 Current law provides for an open season on deer in each
17 calendar year from the 5th Monday preceding Thanksgiving to
19 November 30th. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
21 has authority to shorten the season within the statutory
23 framework, and for the past several years has shortened the
25 season to 4 weeks with the season coming to an end on the
27 Saturday following Thanksgiving.

Some years, depending on the calendar, it would be
advantageous to open the 4-week deer hunting season a few days
later and extend it into December. A later opening would help
eliminate many of the conflicts which develop between various
resource user groups when the deer hunting season opens in late
October as it did last fall.

A deer season extending a few days into December also
creates the potential for more opportunity to hunt on snow, a
condition which many deer hunters prefer.

This bill extends by 5 days the statutory framework within
which the commissioner may establish the annual deer hunting
season. With this change in place, the 1990 deer hunting season
could be established through the rule-making process to begin on
November 3rd and extend through December 1st; otherwise, under
the existing framework, it would logically begin on October 27th
and end on November 24th.