

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1990

Legislative Document

No. 2159

S.P. 840

In Senate, January 9, 1990

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.

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

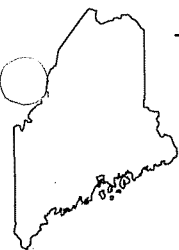
Presented by Senator GOULD of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Representative SMITH of Island Falls, Representative CARROLL of Southwest Harbor and Representative DUFFY of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

An Act to Reduce Hunting Related Accidents.



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

2  
4 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§12, as amended by PL 1985, c. 304, §16,  
is further amended to read:

6 12. **Hunting without hunter orange clothing.** A person is  
guilty of hunting without hunter orange clothing if he that  
8 person hunts with firearms during at any time between October 1st  
and the end of the open firearm season on deer and fails to wear  
10 an article of solid-colored hunter orange clothing which is in  
good and serviceable condition and which is visible from all  
12 sides, except that persons hunting waterfowl from a boat or blind  
or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys and persons hunting  
14 raccoons at night need not wear hunter orange clothing.

16  
18 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

20 This bill mandates the wearing of hunter orange clothing by  
anyone hunting with a firearm between October 1st and the end of  
22 the firearm season on deer. The number of hunting related  
accidents in the State has been reduced substantially over the  
24 past several years. In the late 1940's, with an average of  
154,000 licensed hunters in the woods, the average number of  
26 hunting accidents was about 55. Over the past 5 years, with more  
than 208,000 licensed hunters, the number of accidents has  
28 dropped to about 22 annually.

30 Most hunter safety laws, such as mandatory hunter orange  
clothing requirements and prohibitions on hunting after sunset,  
32 are directed at deer hunters. As a result, accidents involving  
deer hunters have been reduced dramatically. Today another group  
34 of hunters, grouse hunters, play a major negative role in our  
hunting accident statistics.

36 Throughout calendar year 1988, Maine had a total of 18  
38 nonfatal hunting related accidents. Nine, or 50% of these  
accidents involved grouse hunters during the month of October.  
40 Had the victims of these grouse hunting accidents been wearing an  
article of hunter orange clothing, some of these accidents might  
42 have been avoided.

44 Since deer hunters are already required to wear this  
clothing, the primary impact of this bill will be on grouse  
46 hunters.