

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

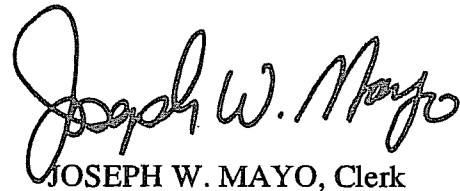
No. 612

H.P. 475

House of Representatives, February 23, 1993

An Act to Ensure Safe Hunting.

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CONSTANTINE of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GEAN of Alfred, HOLT of Bath, ST. ONGE of Greene.

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

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4 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§12-A is enacted to read:

6 12-A. Hunting near where people congregate. A person may
8 not hunt within 1,000 feet of a home, business, school or other
 place where people live or congregate on a regular and systematic
 basis.

10 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§20, ¶C is enacted to read:

12 C. Notwithstanding subsection 21, a person is not guilty of
14 hunting without permission if that person lacks written
16 permission and carries a firearm or bow and arrow onto
 property of another in the unorganized territory or
 deorganized townships.

18 Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§21 is enacted to read:

20 21. Hunting without permission. A person is guilty of
22 hunting without permission if that person enters the property of
24 another with a firearm or a bow and arrow and without written
 permission of the owner or, in the case of privately owned
 right-of-ways, without the written permission of the abutting
 landowners. It is sufficient written permission if:

26 A. The property is posted as open to hunting;

28 B. The property is owned by the State and is open to
30 hunting pursuant to state law or rule;

32 C. The property owner has provided permission on that
34 owner's deed filed with the local registrar of deeds; or

36 D. The property owner has published permission in a local
 newspaper at least one time during the hunting season.

38 Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4303 is enacted to read:

40 §4303. Maps of land open to hunting

42 Municipalities may maintain and make available to the public
44 maps or map overlays indicating properties that are open to
 hunting pursuant to Title 12, section 7406, subsection 20,
 paragraph C and Title 12, section 7406, subsection 21.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill prohibits hunting within 1,000 feet of places where people live or congregate on a regular and systematic basis.

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This bill also makes hunting without written permission a prohibited act under the fish and wildlife laws, Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 702. Hunting without permission is defined as carrying a firearm or bow and arrow onto the property of another without written permission unless that property is owned by the State and open to hunting or is posted as open to hunting. Publishing permission in a local newspaper or annotating a property deed also constitutes written permission. A person is not guilty of hunting without permission if that person lacks written permission but is hunting on land in unorganized territory. Municipalities are encouraged to make available to the public maps showing areas open to hunting.

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