

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

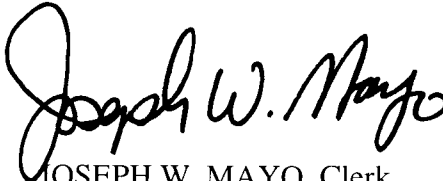
No. 884

H.P. 661

House of Representatives, March 21, 1995

An Act to Ensure Equitable Participation in Special Deer Hunting Seasons.

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative REED of Falmouth.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7457, sub-§1, ¶I,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.
246, §1, is amended to read:

6 I. The commissioner, by rule, may create special hunting
8 seasons for the taking of deer in any part of the State to
maintain deer populations in balance with available habitat,
subject to the following.

10 (1) The demarcation of each area must follow
12 recognizable physical boundaries, such as rivers, roads
and railroad rights-of-way.

14 (2) The determination of these areas must be made and
16 published prior to August 1st of each year.

18 (3) The commissioner may implement a permit system to
20 regulate hunter participation in a special season and
the number, sex and age of deer harvested.

22 (4) Special hunts must take place between the close of
the special muzzle-loading season and January 31st.

24 (5) The commissioner may establish limits on the
26 number of deer taken or possessed by persons during any
special season. Limits established by the commissioner
28 under this subparagraph are exceptions to the limits
imposed under section 7458, subsections 1 and 2.

30 (6) The commissioner may specify types of weapons to
32 be used during a special season.

34 (7) Any special hunts authorized under this paragraph
36 must be published in at least one newspaper having
general circulation in the area of such a hunt at least
38 30 days prior to the beginning of the hunt.

40 (8) Eligibility to participate in any special hunt
42 authorized under this paragraph must be determined by
public chance drawing. Only persons holding a valid
44 Maine resident hunting license for the current year are
eligible to enter the chance drawing. The commissioner
46 is authorized to adopt rules necessary to establish and
conduct the drawing.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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4 This bill requires that any special hunting seasons
6 established by rule for the taking of deer must be publicized in
8 a general circulation newspaper at least 30 days prior to the
beginning of the hunt. The bill also specifies that eligibility
to participate in such a special hunting season must be
determined by a public chance drawing.