

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 123

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H.P. 99

House of Representatives, January 14, 1997

**An Act to Protect Deer.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SPEAR of Nobleboro.  
Cosponsored by Senator RUHLIN of Penobscot and  
Representatives: CHICK of Lebanon, CLARK of Millinocket, CROSS of Dover-Foxcroft,  
DEXTER of Kingfield, McELROY of Unity, PAUL of Sanford, PERKINS of Penobscot,  
TRUE of Fryeburg.

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

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4       **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7035, sub-§3, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 408, §2, is amended to read:

6       B. Agents shall must be trained in the use of snares and  
8       shall ~~be~~ deployed in the unorganized townships to control  
10       coyotes during the winter months. All snaring shall must be  
12       carried out ~~under the direction of department officials and~~  
14       with the knowledge of the local game warden. All areas of  
16       snaring activity shall must be adequately posted.

18       **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7035, sub-§3, ¶D** is enacted to read:

20       D. The commissioner shall ensure that at least 50% of the  
22       department's annual expenditures on animal damage control is  
24       spent on coyote control and that at least 75% of the annual  
26       expenditures on coyote control is spent in those areas of  
28       the State identified by the department as areas where the  
30       control of coyotes will be most effective in rebuilding the  
32       deer herd.

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SUMMARY

36       This bill provides that animal damage control agents need  
38       not be under the direction of officials from the Department of  
40       Inland Fisheries and Wildlife when using snares.

42       The bill also requires that at least 50% of the department's  
44       animal damage control expenditures be spent to control coyotes  
46       and at least 75% of the coyote control money be spent in areas of  
48       the State where, in the department's opinion, coyote control will  
50       be most effective in rebuilding the deer herd.