

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 171

S.P. 61

In Senate, January 14, 1997

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### An Act to Prohibit the Use of Bait and Dogs for Hunting Bear.

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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 "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENOIT of Franklin.  
Cosponsored by Representative: GOOLEY of Farmington.

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

2  
4       **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7451, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 167,  
§1, is further amended to read:

6           **1. Open and closed season.**

8           A. There is an open season on hunting bear from the first  
10       Monday preceding September 1st to November 30th annually.  
12       ~~The commissioner may, pursuant to section 7035, subsection~~  
~~1, adopt rules prohibiting the use of bait to hunt black~~  
~~bear during any portion of the open bear hunting season.~~

14          B. There shall be is an open season on trapping bear from  
September 1st to October 31st annually.

16       ~~C. There shall be an open season on using a dog or dogs in~~  
18       ~~conjunction with bear hunting from the first Monday~~  
20       ~~preceding September 1st, to the day preceding the open~~  
22       ~~firearm season on deer provided in section 7457, subsection~~  
~~1.~~

24          D. The commissioner may shorten the open seasons on bear as  
established in paragraphs A, and B and C in any part of the  
State provided that:

26                   (1) The demarcation of the areas with a shortened  
28                   season follows recognizable physical boundaries such as  
rivers and railroad rights-of-way; and

30                   (2) The decision is made and published prior to  
32                   February 1st of any year.

34          E. The commissioner may terminate the open season on bear  
36       as established in ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs A, and B and C at any  
38       time in any part of the State, if, in his the commissioner's  
opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to  
adverse weather conditions or severe hunting or trapping  
pressure.

40       **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7451, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 667,  
42       Pt. A, §32, is repealed.

44       **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7452, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420,  
46       §1, is amended to read:

48           **1. Unlawfully hunting bear with dogs.** A person is guilty  
of unlawfully hunting bear with dogs if he, ~~while either hunting~~  
~~alone or hunting with other persons,~~ that person uses more than 4  
50       ~~dogs at any one time~~ a dog or dogs to hunt bear.

