MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 171

S.P. 61

In Senate, January 14, 1997

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

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

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	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 Monday preceding September 1st to November 30th annually.
10	The -commissioner -may, -pursuant -to -section -7035, -subsection 1, -adopt -rules -prohibiting -the -use -of -bait -te -hunt -black
12	bear-during-any-pertion-of-the-open-bear-hunting-season.
14	B. There shall-be <u>is</u> an open season on trapping bear from September 1st to October 31st annually.
16	CThere-shall-be-an-open-season-on-using-a-dog-or-dogs-in
18	eenjunctionwithbearhuntingfromthefirstMonday precedingSeptemberlst,tothedayprecedingtheepen
20	firearm-season-on-deer-provided-in-section-7457, subsection
22	D. The commissioner may shorten the open seasons on bear as
24	established in paragraphs A_r 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 as established in paragraph paragraphs A, and B and-C at any
36	time in any part of the State, if, in his the commissioner's opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to
38	adverse weather conditions or severe hunting or trapping pressure.
40 42	Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7451, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1995, c. 667, Pt. A, §32, is repealed.
44	Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7452, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420,

of unlawfully hunting bear with-dogs if he,-while-either-hunting alone-of-hunting-with-other-persons, that person uses more-than-4

degs-at-any-ene-time a dog or dogs to hunt bear.

1. Unlawfully hunting bear with dogs. A person is guilty

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2	Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §/452, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 1989, c. 493, §30, is repealed.
4	Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §7452, sub-§1-B, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 696, §10, is repealed.
6	Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §7452, sub-§1-C, as enacted by PL 1989, c.
8	493, §31, is amended to read:
10	1-C. Illegal baiting of bear. A person is guilty of illegally baiting bear if that person places bear bait in-any
12	manner-which-does-not-conform-to-section-7451,-subsection-3 to hunt bear.
14	Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §7458, sub-§15, TH, as amended by PL 1993, c.
16	438, §33, is further amended to read:
18	H. Subsection 9, paragraph B does not apply to hunting from an observation stand or blind overlooking:
20	(1) Standing crops; <u>or</u>
22	(2) Foods that have been left as a result of normal
24	agricultural operations or as a result of natural occurrence - or .
26	(3) Bear-bait-that-has-been-placed-at-a-bear-hunting
28	standorblindinaccordancewithsection7451, subsection-3.
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32	SUMMARY
34	This bill prohibits the use of dogs and the placing of bait when hunting bear.