

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 430

H.P. 314

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

An Act to Limit the Taking of Antlerless Deer by Property Owners.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7457, sub-§1, ¶H,** as amended by PL 1997, c.
4 225, §1, is further amended to read:

6 H. The commissioner may regulate the taking of antlerless
8 deer within any area of the State, as necessary, to maintain
10 deer populations in balance with available habitat if the
12 following conditions are met.

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

20 (2) The determination must be made and published prior
22 to August 1st of each year.

24 (3) The application fee for a permit to take an
26 antlerless deer may not exceed \$1. The application
28 must include a detachable portion on which the
30 applicant shall write the applicant's name and address
32 and to which the applicant shall affix a stamp of
adequate postage. The department shall return this
portion of the application to the applicant in
acknowledgement of the department's receipt of the
application.

34 (4) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the
36 administration, implementation, enforcement and
38 interpretation of this subsection, except that there
40 may not be an antlerless deer permit system unless
42 otherwise specified in this paragraph.

44 (5) An antlerless deer permit system adopted by the
46 commissioner pursuant to this section may include a
48 provision giving special consideration to landowners
who keep their lands open to hunting by the public,
except that a landowner who keeps land open to hunting
by the public may submit applications for only 2
hunters per parcel of land for purposes of obtaining a
permit through the department's annual deer lottery for
landowners. Any 2 or more areas of land owned by the
same person that are open for hunting and that would be
contiguous except for being divided by one or more
roads are considered contiguous for the purposes of
determining landowner eligibility for special
consideration under this subparagraph.

SUMMARY

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4 This bill provides that a landowner who keeps land open to
6 hunting by the public may submit applications for only 2 hunters
per parcel of land for purposes of the Department of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife's antlerless deer permit system.