

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1469

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H.P. 1047

House of Representatives, February 23, 1999

### **An Act to Increase Hunting Opportunities in the State.**

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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 MATTHEWS of Winslow.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: CLARK of Millinocket, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook,  
STANLEY of Medway, USHER of Westbrook.

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7102-A, sub-§6, ¶C**, as corrected by RR 1993, c. 1, §35, is amended to read:

C. The commissioner shall by rule establish a special archery season beginning at least 30 days prior to and extending to the beginning of the regular deer hunting season, as described in section 7457, subsection 1, paragraph A, for the purpose of hunting deer with bow and arrow only. During the special archery season on deer, the following restrictions apply.

(1) Deer may be taken only by means of a hand-held bow and broadhead arrow, provided that:

(a) Bows must be of adequate strength to shoot an arrow at least 150 yards; and

(b) Arrowheads must be at least 7/8 inch in width.

(2) A person may not carry firearms of any kind while hunting any species of wildlife with bow and arrow during the special archery season on deer, except that any person who holds a license that allows hunting with firearms may carry a handgun.

~~(3) If a person takes a deer with bow and arrow during the special archery season on deer, that person is precluded from further hunting for deer during that year.~~

(4) Except as provided in this subsection, the provisions of chapters 701 to 721 concerning deer are applicable to the taking of deer with bow and arrow, including the transportation, registration and possession of deer taken by this method.

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7102-A, sub-§6, ¶D** is enacted to read:

D. Notwithstanding section 7458, subsections 1 and 2, a person who has taken a deer with bow and arrow during the special open season for archery hunting may hunt for and kill a 2nd deer with a firearm during the firearm season.

**Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7107-A, sub-§5, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 320, §2, is repealed.

**Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §7457, sub-§1, ¶H**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 225, §1, is repealed.

**Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §7463-A, sub-§2-A, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 490, §1, is further amended to read:

C. In 1996 and 1997, no more than 1,500 permits; and

**Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §7463-A, sub-§2-A, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 490, §2, is amended to read:

D. In 1998 and ~~in each year thereafter~~ 1999, no more than 2,000 permits; ~~and~~

**Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §7463-A, sub-§2-A, ¶E is enacted to read:**

E. In 2000 and in each year thereafter, no more than 3,000 permits.

**Sec. 8. Two-year trial basis; report.** The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall submit a report together with any necessary implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at the end of each hunting season for the years 1999 and 2000. The department shall report to the committee the results of having an open deer hunting season as opposed to a restricted hunting season.

## SUMMARY

This bill allows a person who has killed a deer during the special archery season for deer to hunt and kill a 2nd deer with a firearm during the regular firearm season for deer. The bill also repeals the regulation of the taking of antlerless deer and permits hunters to take any deer. The bill requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at the end of the hunting season for the years 1999 and 2000 on the results of having an open deer hunting season as opposed to a restricted hunting season. The bill also increases the moose hunting permits from 2,000 to 3,000.