

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1584

H.P. 1125

House of Representatives, March 2, 1999

**An Act to Limit the Caliber of Ammunition Allowed for Hunting
White-tailed Deer and Black Bear.**

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 DUNLAP of Old Town. (By Request)

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

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7458-A is enacted to read:

§7458-A. Hunting white-tailed deer and black bear; certain ammunition prohibited

1. Certain ammunition prohibited. A person may not hunt for white-tailed deer or black bear with the following ammunition:

A. A bullet weighing less than 50 grains;

B. A bullet with a full metal casing;

C. A bullet rated at .345 caliber or less, unless that bullet has a weight of 50 grains or more and a minimum energy of 1100 foot-pounds; or

D. A bullet rated from .346 to .41 caliber, unless that bullet has a weight of 120 grains and a minimum energy of 500 foot-pounds. Ammunition in this caliber range used in muzzle-loaders is exempt from the 500 foot-pound energy requirement.

2. Exceptions. The following are exceptions to the prohibition in subsection 1.

A. Ammunition otherwise prohibited in subsection 1 may be used to kill wounded prey.

B. The commissioner may allow the use of ammunition that is not rated in the United States if the commissioner determines that that ammunition meets the standards in subsection 1.

C. Any bullet of .42 caliber or greater is exempt from subsection 1.

3. Violation. A person who violates this section is guilty of hunting with prohibited ammunition. Hunting with prohibited ammunition is a Class E crime.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes minimum standards for ammunition used to hunt white-tailed deer and black bear. The bill prohibits the use of any bullet that weighs less than 50 grains or that has a full metal casing. Bullets of 50 grains or more that are less than .42 caliber must meet certain weight and power standards. Bullets of .42 caliber or greater are exempt from these prohibitions.

2 The bill allows prohibited ammunition to be used to kill
wounded prey and authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries
4 and Wildlife to allow the use of ammunition not rated in the
United States if the commissioner determines that that ammunition
meets the minimum standards set in this bill.

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8 The bill creates a new violation of hunting with prohibited
ammunition and establishes that violation as a Class E crime.