

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 347

H.P. 269

House of Representatives, January 30, 2001

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**An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Wild Turkey Hunting Season.**

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Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative HONEY of Boothbay.  
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and  
Representatives: CHICK of Lebanon, CLARK of Millinocket, COTE of Lewiston, DUNLAP  
of Old Town, SCHNEIDER of Durham, TRAHAN of Waldoboro, USHER of Westbrook,  
Senator: CARPENTER of York.

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

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3 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7468, sub-§§3 and 5, as enacted by PL 1985, c.  
4 95, §1, are amended to read:

6 3. **Wild turkey season.** ~~On or after January 1, 1986, the~~  
7 ~~The~~ commissioner may establish open seasons on wild turkeys  
8 ~~between May 1st and June 15th, within the wild turkey hunting~~  
9 ~~zones, designate zones that are open to hunting wild turkeys and~~  
10 ~~issue permits within those zones.~~

12 5. **Eligibility.** Any Maine resident, nonresident or alien  
13 who is eligible to obtain a Maine hunting license, or who will be  
14 eligible to obtain a Maine hunting license by the opening day of  
15 the wild turkey hunting season, is eligible to apply for a wild  
16 turkey hunting permit.

18 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7468, sub-§12, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 95,  
19 §1, is amended to read:

20 12. **Authority of the commissioner.** The commissioner may  
21 establish open hunting season dates on wild turkeys, issue  
22 applications for wild turkey hunting permits, set the number of  
23 permits to be issued, establish wild turkey hunting zones, issue  
24 permits, establish provisions giving special consideration to  
25 landowners who keep their lands open to hunting by the public and  
26 make all rules which he the commissioner considers necessary for  
27 the protection of the wild turkey resource.

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SUMMARY

This bill repeals the specified dates for the State's wild  
turkey hunting season, instead allowing the Commissioner of  
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish an open season. In  
addition, it clarifies the law pertaining to eligibility to apply  
for permits to be consistent with moose permit applicants as well  
as giving the commissioner the authority to give special  
consideration to landowners, such as establishing a landowner  
permit drawing by rule.