

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 761

H.P. 606

House of Representatives, February 13, 2001

An Act Pertaining to Bear Hunting Permits.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town.
Cosponsored by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln and
Representatives: COTE of Lewiston, SAVAGE of Buxton, THOMAS of Orono.

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

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7076, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. A, §14, is amended to read:

1. Residents over 70 years of age. A complimentary license to hunt, trap or fish, including an archery license under section 7102-A or 7102-B, a pheasant hunting permit under section 7106-B, a muzzle-loading hunting license under section 7107-A, a migratory waterfowl permit under section 7109 and a bear hunting permit under section ~~7110~~ 7451, subsection 5 must be issued to any resident of Maine who is 70 years of age or older upon application to the commissioner. These complimentary licenses, upon issuance, remain valid for the remainder of the life of the license holder, provided the license holder continues to satisfy the residency requirements set out in section 7001, subsection 32 and provided the license is not revoked or suspended. Residents who apply for these complimentary licenses at any time during the calendar year of their 70th birthday must be issued a license upon application, regardless of the actual date during that calendar year in which they attain age 70. A guide license may be renewed without charge for any resident of Maine who is 70 years of age or older upon application to the commissioner. The application must be accompanied by a birth certificate or other certified evidence of the applicant's date of birth and residency. When the holder of a license issued under this subsection no longer satisfies the residency requirements set out in section 7001, subsection 32, the license is no longer valid and further use of the license for purposes of hunting, fishing or trapping constitutes a license violation under section 7371, subsection 3.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7110, as amended by PL 1999, c. 220, §4, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7451, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1997, c. 463, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Bear tags. The commissioner shall prescribe the form and content of a bear tag and shall produce a bear tag that is part of ~~a big game hunting license issued for calendar year 1998 and thereafter~~ the bear hunting permit described in subsection 5.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §7451, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Bear hunting permit. A permit is required to hunt for bear during the open bear hunting seasons described in subsection 1, paragraphs A and C.

2 A. A person who possesses a valid license to hunt big game
3 is eligible to obtain a bear hunting permit from the
4 commissioner.

6 B. The commissioner, through the commissioner's authorized
7 agent, shall issue a bear hunting permit to eligible
8 persons. The fee for a bear hunting permit is \$5 for
9 residents and \$15 for nonresidents and aliens.

10 C. An unexpired bear hunting permit must be carried by the
11 permittee at all times while bear hunting or while
12 transporting a bear.

14 **Sec. 5. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2002.

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SUMMARY

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20 This bill establishes a new bear hunting permit that would
21 be required for all bear hunters beginning in 2002. This bill
22 will:

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24 1. Make the black bear hunting permit equivalent to that of
25 other big game species;

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27 2. Eliminate a system that has allowed many hunters to take
28 a bear without a permit; and

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30 3. Establish a mechanism that can be used in the future to
31 better distribute bear hunting pressure.

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33 The bill also requires the Department of Inland Fisheries
34 and Wildlife to produce a bear transportation tag that is part of
35 the bear hunting permit. Currently the bear tag must be part of
36 the big game hunting license.