

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1067

H.P. 812

House of Representatives, February 22, 2001

An Act to Prohibit the Use of Dogs or Bait While Hunting Bear.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative DAVIS of Falmouth. (By Request)

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

2
3 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7451, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 167,
4 §1, is further amended to read:

6 **1. Open and closed season.**

8 A. There is an open season on hunting bear from the first
9 Monday preceding September 1st to November 30th annually.
10 ~~The commissioner may, pursuant to section 7035, subsection~~
11 ~~1, adopt rules prohibiting the use of bait to hunt black~~
12 ~~bear during any portion of the open bear hunting season.~~

14 B. There ~~shall be~~ is an open season on trapping bear from
15 September 1st to October 31st annually.

16 C. ~~There shall be an open season on using a dog or dogs in~~
17 ~~conjunction with bear hunting from the first Monday~~
18 ~~preceding September 1st, to the day preceding the open~~
19 ~~firearm season on deer provided in section 7457, subsection~~
20 ~~1.~~

22 D. The commissioner may shorten the open seasons on bear as
23 established in paragraphs A, and B ~~and~~ C in any part of the
24 State provided that:

26 (1) The demarcation of the areas with a shortened
27 season follows recognizable physical boundaries such as
28 rivers and railroad rights-of-way; and

30 (2) The decision is made and published prior to
31 February 1st of any year.

34 E. The commissioner may terminate the open season on bear
35 as established in ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs A, and B ~~and~~ C at any
36 time in any part of the State, if, in his ~~the~~ commissioner's
37 opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to
38 adverse weather conditions or severe hunting or trapping
39 pressure.

40 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7451, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 432,
41 §42, is repealed.

44 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7452, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 420,
45 §1, is amended to read:

46 **1. Unlawfully hunting bear with dogs.** A person is guilty
47 of unlawfully hunting bear ~~with dogs if he, while either hunting~~
48 ~~alone or hunting with other persons, that person uses more than 4~~
49 ~~dogs at any one time~~ a dog or dogs to hunt bear.
50

