

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

Legislative Document

No. 2196

H.P. 1698

House of Representatives, March 20, 2002

An Act to Permit Small Game Hunting on Private Property on Sunday in Unorganized Territory.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative McGLOCKLIN of Embden.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, DUNLAP of Old Town, FOSTER of Gray, MICHAUD of Fort Kent, PINEAU of Jay, Senators: CARPENTER of York, KILKELLY of Lincoln, President Pro Tem MICHAUD of Penobscot.

2
3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§20, ¶D** is enacted to read:

6 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 4:

8 (1) The commissioner may authorize a private landowner who owns a continuous piece of property that is greater than 500 acres and located entirely within unorganized territory to open that property to hunters licensed to hunt on Sunday. The commissioner may not authorize Sunday hunting on any property that adjoins public property defined as a park under section 1801 or established pursuant to section 7651 or section 8003, subsection 3, paragraph N; and

16 (2) The commissioner may issue Sunday hunting permits to hunt rabbit or grouse during the regular open season on authorized private property as described in subparagraph (1). The fee for a Sunday hunting permit is \$15. All revenues raised pursuant to this paragraph must be deposited in a dedicated account to be used only for the purposes described in section 7035, subsection 13.

26 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7901-A, sub-§6, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §88 and affected by Pt. C, §1, is amended to read:

28 A. Chapter 709, subchapter I violations:

30 (1) Shooting at or near wildfowl decoys as described in section 7406, subsection 11;

34 (2) Hunting without hunter orange clothing as described in section 7406, subsection 12; and

36 (3) Allowing a junior hunter to hunt without adult supervision as described in section 7406, subsection 21; and

40 (4) A landowner's allowing Sunday hunting on that landowner's property without prior authorization of the commissioner as described in 7406, subsection 20, paragraph D;

46 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7901-A, sub-§7, ¶F** is enacted to read:

48 F. The following violation is a Class E crime for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than \$75, none of which may be suspended:

2 (1) Knowingly hunting on land that has not been
4 authorized by the commissioner to be open for Sunday
6 hunting pursuant to section 7406, subsection 20,
8 paragraph D.

SUMMARY

10 This bill allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and
12 Wildlife to authorize a private landowner owning a continuous
14 piece of property that is greater than 500 acres and located
16 entirely within unorganized territory to open that property to
18 hunters licensed to hunt on Sunday. The Commissioner of Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife may issue Sunday hunting permits to hunt
rabbit and grouse during the regular open season on authorized
private property. The commissioner may not authorize private
property for Sunday hunting if that property adjoins certain
public property. The fee for a Sunday hunting permit is \$15.