

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 270

S.P. 106

In Senate, January 28, 2003

**An Act To Give Priority in the Antlerless Deer Permit System to a
Person Who Owns 100 Acres or More of Land and Permits Hunting
on the Land**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator WOODCOCK of Franklin.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7457, sub-§1, ¶H, as amended by PL 2001, c. 690, Pt. A, §8 and affected by §18, is further amended to read:

H. The commissioner may regulate the taking of antlerless deer within any area of the State, as necessary, to maintain deer populations in balance with available habitat if the following conditions are met.

(1) The demarcation of each area must follow recognizable physical boundaries such as rivers, roads and railroad rights-of-way.

(2) The determination must be made and published prior to August 1st of each year.

(4) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the administration, implementation, enforcement and interpretation of this subsection, except that there may not be an antlerless deer permit system unless otherwise specified in this paragraph. Any rules adopted by the commissioner that provide for permits to be issued to nonresident or alien hunters must provide that:

(a) The percentage of antlerless deer permits issued to nonresident and alien hunters may not exceed the average percentage of applicants for antlerless deer permits over the previous 3 years who were nonresidents or aliens; and

(b) No more than 15% of the antlerless deer permits issued in any one district or in any one zone may be issued to nonresident and alien hunters.

(5) An antlerless deer permit system adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section may include a provision giving special consideration to landowners who keep their lands open to hunting by the public. An antlerless deer permit system adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section must include a provision giving priority to a person who owns at least 100 acres of land and keeps that land open to hunting by the public. Any 2 or more areas of land owned by the same person that are open for hunting and that would be contiguous except for being divided by one or more roads are considered contiguous for the purposes

2 of determining landowner eligibility for special
consideration under this subparagraph.

4 A junior hunter or a person 65 years of age or older may
take an antlerless deer, if a person who holds a valid
6 antlerless deer permit transfers the permit to the junior
hunter or person 65 years of age or older by identifying the
8 name, age and address of the transferee on the permit as
well as any other information reasonably requested by the
10 commissioner and then returns the permit to the department
prior to the start of the firearm season on deer. The
12 commissioner shall record the transfer and return the permit
to the junior hunter or person 65 years of age or older. A
14 valid permit must be in the possession of the transferee in
order for the transferee to take an antlerless deer. If the
16 person transfers the permit to the junior hunter or person
65 years of age or older, that person is prohibited from
18 taking an antlerless deer.

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SUMMARY

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24 This bill gives priority in the antlerless deer permit
system to landowners who own at least 100 acres and keep that
land open to hunting by the general public.