## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

**Legislative Document** 

No. 388

H.P. 308

House of Representatives, January 30, 2003

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

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

Millient M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McGLOCKLIN of Embden.
Cosponsored by Senator BRYANT of Oxford and
Representatives: DUGAY of Cherryfield, PINEAU of Jay, RICHARDSON of Greenville,
TOBIN of Dexter, WATSON of Bath, WHEELER of Kittery, WOTTON of Littleton, Senator:
DAVIS of Piscataquis.

	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7406, sub-§20, ¶D is enacted to read:
4	D. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 4:
6 8	(1) The commissioner may authorize a private landowner who owns a continuous piece of property that is greater
10	than 500 acres and located entirely within unorganized territory to open that property on Sunday to hunters
12	permitted to hunt on Sunday under this paragraph. The commissioner may not authorize Sunday hunting on any property that is not open to hunting by the public and
14	adjoins public property defined as a park under section 1801 or established pursuant to section 7651 or section
16	8003, subsection 3, paragraph N; and
18	(2) The commissioner may issue Sunday hunting permits to licensed hunters to hunt rabbit or grouse during the
20	regular open season on authorized private property as described in subparagraph (1). The annual fee for a
22	Sunday hunting permit is \$15. All revenues raised pursuant to this paragraph must be deposited in a
24	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 amended by PL 2001, c.
28	610, $\S 3$ and c. 667, Pt. B, $\S 9$ , is repealed and the following enacted in its place:
30 32	A. Chapter 709, subchapter 1 violations:
34	(1) Shooting at or near wildfowl decoys as described in section 7406, subsection 11;
36	(2) Hunting without hunter orange clothing as
38	described in section 7406, subsection 12;
40	(3) Allowing a junior hunter to hunt without adult supervision as described in section 7406, subsection 21;
42	(4) Using an aircraft to aid or assist in hunting big
44	game as described in section 7406, subsection 24 if the violation does not involve the taking of a big game
46	animal;
48	(5) Hunting on a state game farm as described in section 7406, subsection 22;

	(6) Hunting in a licensed wildlife exhibit as
2	described in section 7406, subsection 23; and
4	(7) A landowner's allowing Sunday hunting on that
6	landowner's property without meeting the requirements described in section 7406, subsection 20, paragraph D;
8	Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7901-A, sub-§7, ¶F is enacted to read:
10	F. The following violation is a Class E crime for which the
12	<pre>court shall impose a fine of not less than \$75, none of which may be suspended:</pre>
14	(1) Knowingly hunting on Sunday on land that has not
16	been authorized by the commissioner to be open for Sunday hunting pursuant to section 7406, subsection 20,
18	paragraph D.
20	Sec. 4. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2004.
22	Sec. 5. Repeal. This Act is repealed January 1, 2006.
24	SUMMARY
26	This bill allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to authorize a private landowner owning a continuous
28	piece of property that is greater than 500 acres and located entirely within unorganized territory to open that property on
30	Sunday to hunters who have permits to hunt on Sunday. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may not authorize
32	private property for Sunday hunting if the property owner does not keep that property open to hunting by the public. The
34	commissioner may issue Sunday hunting permits to hunt rabbit and
36	grouse on authorized private property during the regular open season. The commissioner may not authorize private property for
38	Sunday hunting if that property adjoins certain public property. The fee for a Sunday hunting permit is \$15.
40	The bill also sets an effective date of January 1, 2004 and a repeal date of January 1, 2006.