

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 964

H.P. 721

House of Representatives, February 25, 2003

An Act To Help Disabled, Elderly and Junior Hunters

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative JACKSON of Fort Kent.
Cosponsored by Senator KNEELAND of Aroostook and
Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, CLARK of Millinocket, GOODWIN of Pembroke,
SHERMAN of Hodgdon, WATSON of Bath, WOTTON of Littleton, Senators: MARTIN of
Aroostook, STANLEY of Penobscot.

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

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

(6) An antlerless deer permit system adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section must include a

2 provision that allows a person with a disability, as
4 defined in Title 29-A, section 521, subsection 1, a
6 person 70 years of age or older or a junior hunter to
8 take an antlerless deer during the first week of the
10 regular season for deer.

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

24 SUMMARY

26 This bill allows a disabled person, a person 70 years of age
28 or older or a junior hunter to take an antlerless deer during the
first week of the regular season for deer.