

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 628

H.P. 461

House of Representatives, February 8, 2005

An Act To Amend the Bear Hunting Laws

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative EBERLE of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DUDLEY of Portland, EDER of Portland.

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

2
3 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11302**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9
4 and amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §158 and affected by §422, is
5 further amended to read:

6 **§11302. Hunting bear with dogs prohibited**
7

8 **1. Hunting bear with dogs.** A person may not, ~~while either~~
9 ~~hunting alone or hunting with other persons,~~ use ~~more than 4~~ dogs
10 ~~at any one time~~ to hunt bear.

11 ~~2. Nonresidents hunting with dogs. A nonresident may not~~
12 ~~hunt bear with the use of a dog or dogs unless that nonresident~~
13 ~~employs and hunts with a resident Maine guide.~~

14 ~~A. The total number of clients with a resident Maine guide~~
15 ~~may not be more than 3 in order to satisfy the requirements~~
16 ~~of this subsection.~~

17 ~~This subsection does not apply to nonresidents who hold a valid~~
18 ~~Maine guide license.~~

19 **3. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a
20 Class E crime.

21 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11303, sub-§2, ¶¶B and C**, as enacted by PL
22 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 and affected by §422, are amended to
23 read:

24 B. Trap bear; or

25 C. Molest or harass a bear; ~~or.~~

26 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11303, sub-§2, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2003, c.
27 655, Pt. B, §160 and affected by §422, is repealed.

28 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11304**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B,
29 §161 and affected by §422, is repealed.

30 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §12260, sub-§2**, as affected by PL 2003, c.
31 614, §9 and amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §222 and affected by §422,
32 is amended to read:

33 **2. Unlawful trapping of bear.** A person may not catch a
34 bear in a trap and cause or allow another person to kill or
35 register that bear unless the person who will kill or register
36 the bear holds a valid permit to kill or register a bear trapped
37 by another. The commissioner may establish this permit and set
38 the fee by rule. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are

2 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
3 subchapter 2-A. A person who violates this subsection commits a
4 Class E crime.

6 SUMMARY

8 This bill prohibits the hunting of bears with dogs and
9 authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to
10 create and issue permits that would allow a person to kill or
register a bear that was caught in another person's trap.