

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 649

S.P. 204

In Senate, February 8, 2005

An Act To Provide Access to Maine's Resources to Veterans of the Iraq War

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry 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 BRYANT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative BRYANT of Windham and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, CAIN of Orono, HUTTON of Bowdoinham,
LUNDEEN of Mars Hill, PATRICK of Rumford, PINGREE of North Haven, TWOMEY of
Biddeford, WHEELER of Kittery.

2 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** this legislation provides certain benefits to
homecoming veterans of the Iraq War; and

8 **Whereas,** these benefits, such as a free one-year fishing
license and free access to state parks would need to begin before
10 the 90-day period ends; and

12 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
14 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
16 safety; now, therefore,

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

20 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1819,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 678, §13, is
amended by adding after the 3rd paragraph a new paragraph to read:

22 Any resident veteran of the Iraq War who has served a
24 minimum of 90 days must be, if requested, issued a free pass for
one year to state parks. "Iraq War" means service on active duty
26 on or after March 20, 2003 and before or on the date that the
United States Government recognizes as the end of that war period.

28 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶O** is enacted to read:

30 O. A license to hunt, for a resident veteran of the Iraq
32 War who has served a minimum of 90 days, is free of charge
for one season. "Iraq War" means service on active duty on
34 or after March 20, 2003 and before or on the date that the
United States Government recognizes as the end of that war
36 period.

38 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12501, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414,
Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

40 **2. Eligibility.** The commissioner may issue the following
42 licenses to the following persons:

44 A. A resident fishing license to a resident 16 years of age
or older; and

46 B. A nonresident fishing license to a nonresident 12 years
48 of age or older; and

2 C. A free resident fishing license for one season to a
3 resident veteran of the Iraq War who has served a minimum of
4 90 days. "Iraq War" means service on active duty on or
5 after March 20, 2003 and before or on the date that the
6 United States Government recognizes as the end of that war
7 period.

8 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
9 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.
10

11 SUMMARY

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13 This bill recognizes resident veterans of the Iraq War who
14 have served a minimum of 90 days by allowing them a free one-year
pass to state parks and free hunting and fishing licenses.