

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 1153

H.P. 796

House of Representatives, March 8, 2005

### An Act To Establish a Muzzle-loading Shotgun Season on Deer

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ANNIS of Dover-Foxcroft.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and  
Representatives: CRESSEY of Cornish, JOY of Crystal, RICHARDSON of Carmel,  
RICHARDSON of Greenville, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, THOMAS of Ripley.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11405 is enacted to read:

**§11405. Muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer**

**1. Muzzle-loading shotgun season.** There is a special muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer in expanded archery areas as established by the commissioner immediately following an expanded archery season as established by the commissioner for the purpose of hunting deer only with a muzzle-loading shotgun as defined in section 10001, subsection 42-B. The muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer is separate from the muzzle-loading-only deer season under section 11404. The commissioner may terminate the muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer at any time in an area if, in the commissioner's opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to adverse weather conditions or severe hunting pressure. The length of the muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer is as follows:

**A.** The commissioner shall establish by rule the length of the special muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer in expanded archery areas after an expanded archery hunting season. The season may extend for no more than 6 hunting days and must end by the Saturday before Christmas Day.

**2. Applicability of laws.** The following provisions apply during the muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer:

**A.** The commissioner's authority to regulate the harvest of antlerless deer under section 11152 is applicable during the muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer;

**B.** Deer tags for the muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer must be issued for use in the same manner and in addition to the muzzle-loading-only deer season;

**C.** Except as provided in this section, the provisions of this Part relating to deer apply to the taking of deer with muzzle-loading shotguns; and

**D.** Only one deer of either sex may be taken during the muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer, in addition to any deer taken during the regular open hunting season on deer.

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a muzzle-loading shotgun season on deer in the expanded archery areas of the State and after the

2 archery season, as established by the Commissioner of Inland  
3 Fisheries and Wildlife. It is in addition to the regular hunting  
4 season, and a deer tag must be purchased in addition to the other  
fees.