

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1287

H.P. 884

House of Representatives, March 15, 2005

An Act To Allow the Use of All Muzzle-loading Firearms during Muzzle-loading Deer Season

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 ANDREWS of York, Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: RICHARDSON of Carmel, RICHARDSON of Greenville, SHERMAN of
Hodgdon, THOMAS of Ripley.

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

2

3 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11404, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 614,
4 §4 and affected by §9, is further amended to read:

6

7 **1. Muzzle-loading-only open season on deer.** There is a
8 special muzzle-loading open season on deer immediately following
9 the regular deer hunting season established under section 11401,
10 subsection 1, paragraph A for the purpose of hunting deer only
11 with muzzle-loading firearms as defined in section 10001,
12 subsection 42 ~~and that are 40-caliber or greater and capable of~~
13 ~~firing only a single charge.~~ If a hunter is using a
14 double-barreled muzzle-loading firearm, both barrels may be
15 loaded for discharge. The commissioner may terminate this open
16 season at any time in an area if, in the commissioner's opinion,
17 an immediate emergency action is necessary due to adverse weather
18 conditions or severe hunting pressure. The length of the special
muzzle-loading season is as follows.

20

21 A. The commissioner shall establish by rule the length of
22 the special muzzle-loading season. The commissioner may
23 establish seasons of different lengths in different regions
24 of the State. The season may extend for no more than 12
hunting days in any part of the State.

26

SUMMARY

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29 This bill allows the use of any muzzle-loading firearm
30 during muzzle-loading-only open season on deer and specifies that
31 double-barreled muzzle-loading firearms may be used with both
32 barrels loaded.