

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 175

S.P. 57

In Senate, January 16, 2007

An Act To Fund Youth Conservation Education

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 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 RAYE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative McLEOD of Lee and
Senators: BRYANT of Oxford, GOOLEY of Franklin, HASTINGS of Oxford,
Representatives: JACKSON of Allagash, LUNDEEN of Mars Hill, RICHARDSON of Carmel,
SOCTOMAH of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, WHEELER of Kittery.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§11**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and
3 amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §§128 and 129 and affected by §422, is further amended to
4 read:

5 **11. Auction of moose hunting permits to fund youth conservation education**
6 **programs.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, the commissioner may issue not more than 5
7 10 moose hunting permits each year through public auction in accordance with this
8 subsection for the purpose of promoting natural resource conservation education through
9 scholarships for youth conservation programs.

10 A. Each moose hunting permit issued under this subsection must be awarded
11 through public auction to the applicant who submits the highest bid.

12 B. A person who applies for a moose hunting permit under this subsection is
13 subject to the eligibility provisions of subsection 5, except that a successful applicant
14 is not required to wait 2 years in order to obtain another permit.

15 C. An eligible person wishing to apply for a permit under this subsection must
16 submit a written application in such form as the commissioner may require. The
17 application must be accompanied by a bidding fee of \$25, which, except as otherwise
18 provided in paragraph D, is nonrefundable. The commissioner may waive the
19 requirements of this paragraph when, as provided in paragraph G, the commissioner
20 enters into a contract with a conservation organization to auction the permits.

21 D. An eligible person may apply for a moose hunting permit both through the
22 public chance drawing and in accordance with this subsection. If a person is selected
23 to receive a moose hunting permit as a result of the public chance drawing, that
24 person is no longer eligible to obtain a permit under this subsection and the bidding
25 fee submitted by that person must be refunded.

26 E. A moose hunting permit issued under this subsection is valid in the district
27 designated by the permittee. This designation must be made within 30 days after the
28 permit is awarded.

29 F. A person who is awarded a moose hunting permit under this subsection may
30 select a subpermittee to participate in the moose hunt as provided in subsection 7.

31 G. The commissioner may enter into a contract with a conservation organization
32 whose goals and objectives are not inconsistent with those of the department to
33 advertise this process of issuing permits, auction the permits and collect revenues.

34 H. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this Part relating to moose are
35 applicable to the hunting of moose with a permit awarded under this subsection.

36 I. The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the proper administration,
37 implementation, enforcement and interpretation of this subsection. Rules adopted
38 pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter
39 375, subchapter 2-A.

1 J. Notwithstanding this subsection, the total number of moose hunting permits
2 issued each year must be in accordance with section 11552, subsection 2.

3 K. The commissioner may decline to issue any permit or any number of permits
4 issuable pursuant to this subsection if, in the commissioner's opinion, the auction bids
5 received do not reflect the public value anticipated to meet the goals of this
6 subsection. Any permit or permits not issued under this subsection must be drawn in
7 the public chance drawing pursuant to subsection 9.

8

SUMMARY

9 This bill raises the number of moose permits auctioned by the Department of Inland
10 Fisheries and Wildlife from 5 to 10 permits and states that the purpose of the auction is to
11 benefit conservation education for youth. It provides the Commissioner of Inland
12 Fisheries and Wildlife the option of not issuing permits to bidders if the bids present a
13 financial return insufficient to reflect the public value of the permits. It also provides that
14 unissued permits are to be drawn in the public chance drawing.