

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1  
2 Date: 3/22/7

(Filing No. H- 35)

Majority

3 INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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5 STATE OF MAINE  
6 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
7 123RD LEGISLATURE  
8 FIRST REGULAR SESSION

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT <sup>A</sup> to H.P. 386, L.D. 503, Bill, "An Act Regarding  
10 the Authority of the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Issue Permits to  
11 Beagle Clubs To Trap Snowshoe Hares"

12 Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

13 '**An Act Regarding the Authority of the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries**  
14 **and Wildlife To Issue Licenses to Beagle Clubs To Trap Snowshoe Hares**'

15 Amend the bill in the 2nd paragraph after the title in the 2nd line (page 1, line 4 in  
16 L.D.) by striking out the following: "permits" and inserting in its place the following:  
17 'licenses'

18 Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the  
19 summary and inserting the following:

20 'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12261 is enacted to read:

21 **§12261. Beagle clubs; trapping snowshoe hares**

22 The commissioner may issue a license to an organization recognized as a beagle club  
23 by the commissioner to take live snowshoe hares.

24 **1. License required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a beagle**  
25 **club may not trap a snowshoe hare without a valid license issued under this section.**

26 **A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine**  
27 **of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.**

28 **B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having**  
29 **committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period**  
30 **commits a Class E crime.**

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 2. Traps labeled and checked daily. A beagle club may not set a trap for a  
2 snowshoe hare unless that trap is plainly labeled with the name of the beagle club and the  
3 telephone number of a contact person and is checked at least once every calendar day.

4 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine  
5 of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.

6 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
7 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
8 commits a Class E crime.

9 3. Use of snowshoe hares. A snowshoe hare trapped pursuant to this section may  
10 not be used for anything other than to stock the running areas of the licensee and may not  
11 be given to any other beagle club or entity.

12 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine  
13 of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.

14 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
15 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
16 commits a Class E crime.

17 4. Transport out of State. A snowshoe hare trapped pursuant to this section may  
18 not be transported out of the State.

19 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine  
20 of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.

21 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
22 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
23 commits a Class E crime.

24 5. Trapping season for snowshoe hares. A beagle club may not trap for snowshoe  
25 hares except between September 1st and April 30th of each calendar year.

26 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine  
27 of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.

28 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
29 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
30 commits a Class E crime.

31 6. Cottontail rabbits. A beagle club may not keep and must release immediately a  
32 cottontail rabbit caught in a trap.

33 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine  
34 of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.

35 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having  
36 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period  
37 commits a Class E crime.

38 7. Reporting of trapped cottontail rabbits. As a condition of licensure under this  
39 section, a beagle club shall file with the department no later than July 1st of each calendar  
40 year a report of cottontail rabbits trapped pursuant to this section.

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It rewords the bill to conform to the standard language for prohibited acts under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, Part 13. This amendment provides civil penalties for violations regarding the trapping of snowshoe hares by beagle clubs.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)



# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 503

LR 280(02)

**An Act Regarding the Authority of the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Issue  
Permits to Beagle Clubs To Trap Snowshoe Hares**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committe Amendment "A"  
Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund  
Minor revenue increase - General Fund

### Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

Establishes new civil violations and Class E crimes.

The collection of additional fines may also increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.