

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 503

H.P. 386

House of Representatives, February 1, 2007

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

(EMERGENCY)

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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 CAMPBELL of Newfield.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRYANT of Oxford and  
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, JACKSON of Allagash, McLEOD of Lee, NASS of  
Acton, RICHARDSON of Carmel, SAVIELLO of Wilton, WHEELER of Kittery, Senator:  
NASS of York.

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

3 **Whereas**, it is important to clarify as soon as possible the authority of the  
4 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to issue permits as described in this  
5 legislation; and

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

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

11 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12261** is enacted to read:

12 **§12261. Trapping snowshoe hares by beagle club**

13 The commissioner may issue a permit to a beagle club to take live snowshoe hares  
14 subject to the following conditions.

15 1. **Traps labeled.** A trap must be plainly labeled with the name of the beagle club  
16 and the telephone number of a contact person.

17 2. **Traps checked daily.** A trap must be checked at least once in every calendar  
18 day.

19 3. **Use of snowshoe hares.** Snowshoe hares may be used to stock running areas of  
20 the beagle club to which the permit is issued pursuant to this section. Snowshoe hares  
21 may not be transported out of the State or sold or given to any other beagle club or entity.

22 4. **Cottontail rabbits.** A cottontail rabbit caught in a trap must be released  
23 immediately.

24 5. **Trapping season for snowshoe hares.** The trapping season for trapping allowed  
25 under this section starts September 1st and ends April 30th of each calendar year.

26 6. **Reporting of trapped cottontail rabbits.** A beagle club that is issued a permit  
27 pursuant to this section shall file with the department no later than July 1st of each  
28 calendar year a report of cottontail rabbits trapped.

29 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes  
30 effect when approved.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill clarifies the authority of the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
33 to issue a permit to a beagle club to take live snowshoe hares for use by that beagle club.