

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 728

H.P. 549

House of Representatives, February 13, 2007

An Act To Enhance the Wise Use and Sound Management of Maine's Wildlife Resources

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative FLOOD of Winthrop.
Cosponsored by Senator TURNER of Cumberland and
Representatives: JACKSON of Allagash, SAVIELLO of Wilton, WATSON of Bath.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10657** is enacted to read:

3 **§10657. Waste of game**

4 **1. Prohibition.** A hunter or trapper may not waste a game animal that has been
5 wounded or killed by that person. For purposes of this section, “waste” means to fail to
6 make a reasonable effort to render a harvested animal for use or consumption or to fail to
7 make a reasonable effort to retrieve a harvested or wounded animal.

8 Notwithstanding section 11109, subsection 3, paragraph N or section 11206, a person
9 who has reason to believe that person has wounded a bear, deer or moose may employ a
10 guide licensed under section 12853 to track and dispatch that animal outside of legal
11 hunting hours.

12 **2. Penalty.** A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

13 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11151, sub-§1,** as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and
14 amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §118 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

15 **1. Permit required.** Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person
16 may not hunt for bear without a valid permit ~~from the first Monday preceding September~~
17 ~~1st to the day preceding the open firearm season on deer. This section does not apply to~~
18 ~~trapping for bear.~~

19 Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which
20 a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be
21 imposed.

22 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11151, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

23 **4. Revenue.** Revenue generated from the issuance of bear hunting permits under
24 subsection 3 in excess of the number of permits issued in 2006 must be used to fund
25 studies related to the harvesting of black bears, including, but not limited to, the impact of
26 the use of bait and the collection of information related to the trapping of bear.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill prohibits a hunter or trapper from wasting a harvested or wounded game
29 animal and removes the law that allows the holder of a big game license to take a bear
30 during the regular open firearm season on deer without a bear hunting permit. It also
31 provides that the revenue generated from the issuance of bear hunting permits in excess
32 of the number issued in 2006 must be used to fund studies relating to the harvesting of
33 black bears.