

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1635

H.P. 1144

House of Representatives, March 22, 2007

An Act To Prohibit Recreational Bear Trapping

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative SCHATZ of Blue Hill.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12260**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended by c.
3 655, Pt. B, §§222 to 224 and affected by §422, is repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12261** is enacted to read:

5 **§12261. Trapping bear prohibited**

6 **1. Unlawful trapping of bear.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, a
7 person may not catch bear in a trap. A person who violates this subsection commits a
8 Class E crime.

9 **2. Research and public safety.** The commissioner shall establish rules concerning
10 bear trapping. These rules must provide for trapping bear only for purposes of scientific
11 research, animal damage control or public safety. Rules established pursuant to this
12 section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill abolishes the open season on trapping bears. It allows for the trapping of
15 bear only for scientific research, animal damage control or public safety.