

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 294

H.P. 238

House of Representatives, February 3, 2011

An Act To Allow Persons 70 Years of Age or Older Expanded Crossbow Privileges

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAFTS of Lisbon.
Cosponsored by Senator MASON of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, DAVIS of Sangerville, HARVELL of Farmington,
TIMBERLAKE of Turner, WINTLE of Garland, WOOD of Sabattus.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10952**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected
3 by Pt. D, §7 and c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

4 **§10952. Open seasons for hunting with bow and arrow and crossbow**

5 A person may, except as otherwise provided in this Part, hunt any wild bird or wild
6 animal with a hand-held bow and arrow during any open season on that bird or animal. A
7 person 70 years of age or older licensed under this Part may, except as otherwise
8 provided, hunt any wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on
9 that bird or animal.

10 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10953, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 419, §2 and
11 affected by §12, is amended to read:

12 **1. Species and seasons.** Except as provided in this Part, a person may hunt bear
13 with a crossbow during the open season on bear as provided in section 11251 and may
14 hunt deer with a crossbow during the open firearm season on deer as provided in section
15 11401. This subsection does not authorize a person to hunt deer with a crossbow during
16 an expanded archery season established under section 11403 or in an expanded archery
17 zone or during the muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season established under section
18 11404, unless the person is 70 years of age or older.

19 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11403, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 163, §2 and
20 affected by §3, is further amended to read:

21 **2. Open archery season on deer.** The commissioner shall by rule establish a
22 regular archery-only season beginning at least 30 days prior and extending to the
23 beginning of the regular deer hunting season, as described in section 11401, subsection 1,
24 paragraph A, for the purpose of hunting deer with bow and arrow only. During the
25 regular archery-only season on deer, except as provided in sections 10952 and 10953, the
26 following restrictions apply.

27 A. A person may not take a deer during a regular archery-only season unless that
28 person uses a hand-held bow and broadhead arrow with the following specifications.

29 (1) Bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds.

30 (2) Arrowheads, including mechanical broadheads when open, must be at least
31 7/8 inch in width.

32 B. A person may not carry firearms of any kind while hunting any species of wildlife
33 with bow and arrow during the regular archery-only season on deer, except that a
34 person who holds a license that allows hunting with firearms may carry a handgun.
35 This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit a person who holds a valid permit to
36 carry a concealed firearm pursuant to Title 25, section 2003 from carrying a firearm.

37 C. Except as provided in section 11109-A, subsection 3, if a person takes a deer with
38 bow and arrow during the regular archery-only season on deer, that person is
39 precluded from further hunting for deer during that year.

1 D. Except as provided in this subsection, the provisions of this Part concerning deer
2 are applicable to the taking of deer with bow and arrow, including the transportation,
3 registration and possession of deer taken by this method.

4 A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime.

5 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11603, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 477, §13, is
6 further amended to read:

7 **1. Prohibition.** ~~A~~ Except pursuant to section 10952, a person may not use a .17 or
8 .22 caliber rimfire firearm, a shotgun using shot loads or a crossbow to hunt moose.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill allows a person 70 years of age or older to hunt wild birds and wild animals
11 with a crossbow during the open seasons for hunting with bow and arrow and allows that
12 person to hunt moose with a crossbow.