

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 544

H.P. 363

House of Representatives, February 19, 2013

An Act To Give Certain Landowners First Priority for Antlerless Deer Permits

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRIGGS of Mexico. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, DAVIS of Sangerville, PETERSON of Rumford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11152, sub-§3, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2
3 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

4 B. No more than 15% of the antlerless deer permits ~~issued~~ available after issuance to
5 junior hunters under subsection 4, paragraph B in any one district or in any one zone
6 may be issued to nonresident and alien hunters.

7 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11152, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 492, §4, is further
8 amended to read:

9 **4. Allocation to landowner.** ~~An~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, an
10 antlerless deer permit system adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section may
11 include a provision giving special consideration to landowners who keep their lands open
12 to hunting by the public. As part of the special consideration to those landowners, the
13 commissioner shall must provide at least 25% of the all available antlerless deer permits
14 in a wildlife management district to eligible landowners that who apply for an antlerless
15 deer permit in that district. For purposes of this subsection, "eligible landowner" means a
16 landowner who owns at least 25 contiguous acres of land and keeps that land open to
17 hunting by the public. Any 2 or more areas of land owned by the same person that are
18 open for hunting and that would be contiguous except for being divided by one or more
19 roads are considered contiguous for the purposes of determining landowner eligibility for
20 special consideration under this subsection.

21 A. If the number of eligible landowner applications exceeds the number of antlerless
22 deer permits available in a wildlife management district, the commissioner shall
23 establish a lottery system to issue those permits to eligible landowners.

24 B. If the number of antlerless deer permits available in a wildlife management
25 district exceeds the number of eligible landowner applications, the commissioner
26 shall issue the remaining permits to junior hunters who apply for an antlerless deer
27 permit in that district.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill amends the current antlerless deer hunting permit system to require that all
30 antlerless deer permits available in a wildlife management district be issued to
31 landowners who own at least 25 contiguous acres of land open to hunting by the public
32 and have applied for the permit.

33 It also provides that if the number of available antlerless deer permits in a wildlife
34 management district exceeds the number of eligible landowner applications, the
35 remaining permits must be issued to junior hunters who have applied for an antlerless
36 deer permit in that district.