

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 896

H.P. 619

House of Representatives, March 7, 2013

An Act To Allow Fox Hunting at Night

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative WILLETTE of Mapleton.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Senator: SHERMAN of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11161** is enacted to read:

3 **§11161. Fox night hunting permit**

4 **1. Permit required.** Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person
5 may not hunt fox at night unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section.
6 Each night a person violates this subsection, that person commits a Class E crime for
7 which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee
8 must be imposed.

9 **2. Eligibility; hunting license required.** A person who possesses a valid hunting
10 license is eligible to obtain a permit from the commissioner to hunt fox at night, except
11 that a permit may not be issued to a person who has been convicted of a violation of
12 section 11206 within 5 years of the date of application for the permit.

13 **3. Issuance.** The commissioner shall issue a permit to hunt fox at night to eligible
14 persons at a fee of \$4.

15 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12002** is enacted to read:

16 **§12002. Night hunting for fox and restrictions**

17 **1. Fox hunting.** Notwithstanding the night hunting prohibitions in section 11206,
18 there is an open season for hunting fox at night in all counties of the State starting from
19 the day after the last special open season on deer hunting through March 31st, as
20 established by rule by the commissioner.

21 The commissioner shall develop policies to make the affected public and affected law
22 enforcement officers aware of any night hunting operations.

23 **2. Calling devices required.** A person may not hunt fox at night without possessing
24 an electronic, hand-held or mouth-operated predator calling device.

25 A person who hunts fox in violation of this subsection commits a Class E crime.

26 **Sec. 3. Maine Revised Statutes headnote amended; revision clause.** In the
27 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 915, subchapter 12, in the subchapter headnote,
28 the words "coyote hunting" are amended to read "coyote and fox hunting" and the
29 Revisor of Statutes shall implement this revision when updating, publishing or
30 republishing the statutes.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill establishes an open season for hunting fox at night in all counties of the
33 State.