

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 1374

S.P. 481

In Senate, April 9, 2013

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**An Act To Allow a Person To Hunt with a Crossbow during the  
Archery-only Deer Season**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TUTTLE of York.  
Cosponsored by Senators: BURNS of Washington, DUTREMBLE of York, HASKELL of  
Cumberland, Representatives: CRAFTS of Lisbon, DAVIS of Sangerville, KUSIAK of  
Fairfield, SHORT of Pittsfield, WOOD of Sabattus.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§9**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. OO, §5, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 **9. Crossbow licenses and fees.** Crossbow hunting licenses and fees are as follows:

5 A. A resident crossbow hunting license is \$25;

6 B. A nonresident crossbow hunting license is \$55; and

7 C. An alien crossbow hunting license is \$79.

8 A person may not hunt with a crossbow without obtaining a crossbow hunting license,  
9 except that a person may hunt bear, moose or turkey with a crossbow without obtaining a  
10 crossbow hunting license if the person holds a valid permit to hunt that species and a  
11 person may hunt deer with a crossbow pursuant to section 11403 without obtaining a  
12 crossbow hunting license.

13 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11403**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 61, §4 and c. 298, §1, is  
14 further amended to read:

15 **§11403. Regular archery and crossbow deer hunting season**

16 **1. License required.** Except as provided in section 11108, subsection 1 or otherwise  
17 authorized by this Part, a person 16 years of age or older may not hunt deer with a bow  
18 and arrow during the special open season on deer as provided under this section unless  
19 that person has a valid archery hunting license. Except as provided in section 11108,  
20 subsection 1 or otherwise authorized by this Part, a person 16 years of age or older may  
21 not hunt deer with a crossbow during the special open season on deer as provided under  
22 this section unless that person has a valid crossbow hunting license and big game hunting  
23 license.

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

27 **2. Open archery and crossbow season on deer.** The commissioner shall by rule  
28 establish a regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow season beginning at least 30 days  
29 prior and extending to the beginning of the regular deer hunting season, as described in  
30 section 11401, subsection 1, paragraph A, for the purpose of hunting deer with bow and  
31 arrow ~~only~~ and crossbow. During the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow season  
32 on deer, ~~except as provided in section 10952, subsection 2 and section 10953, subsection~~  
33 ~~4-A~~, the following restrictions apply.

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

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

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

3 B. A person may not carry firearms of any kind while hunting any species of wildlife  
4 with bow and arrow or crossbow during the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and  
5 crossbow season on deer, except that a person who holds a license that allows hunting  
6 with firearms may carry a handgun. This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit  
7 a person who holds a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun pursuant to Title 25,  
8 section 2003 from carrying a handgun.

9 C. Except as provided in section 11109-A, subsection 3, if a person takes a deer with  
10 bow and arrow or crossbow during the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow  
11 season on deer, that person is precluded from further hunting for deer during that  
12 year.

13 D. Except as provided in this subsection, the provisions of this Part concerning deer  
14 are applicable to the taking of deer with bow and arrow or crossbow, including the  
15 transportation, registration and possession of deer taken by this method.

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

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill allows crossbows to be used during the regular archery-only season and  
19 allows a person with a valid permit to hunt bear, moose and wild turkey with a crossbow  
20 without obtaining a crossbow hunting license.