



## **127th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1239

S.P. 444

In Senate, April 7, 2015

An Act To Allow Persons To Train and Use Dogs To Hunt Coyotes

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

Heath & Print

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Cosponsored by Senators: BURNS of Washington, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DILL of Penobscot, DUTREMBLE of York, HAMPER of Oxford, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock.

- 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
- 3 Whereas, current law allows for coyote hunting at night beginning on December 4 16th of each year; and
- 5 **Whereas,** this legislation allows for dogs to be used when hunting coyotes and in 6 order for dogs to be properly trained for this action, training needs to begin before the 7 effective date of nonemergency legislation; and
- 8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within 9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 11 therefore,
- 12 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- 13 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12001, sub-§4 is enacted to read:
- 144. Hunting coyotes with dogs. A person may use a dog to hunt or may be15accompanied by a dog while hunting coyotes under this section.
- Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12051, sub-§1, ¶A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c.
   588, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:
- A. A person may train dogs on <u>coyotes</u>, foxes, snowshoe hare and raccoons from
   July 1st through the following March 31st, including Sundays.
- 20 Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12051, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2011, c. 253, §22, is 21 further amended to read:
- **3. Possessing firearm while training dogs.** A person may not possess a firearm
   while training a dog outside of the open training season on <u>coyotes</u>, foxes, snowshoe hare
   and raccoons as set out in subsection 1.
- A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.
- B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having
  committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period
  commits a Class E crime.
- 30 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
   31 legislation takes effect when approved.
  - SUMMARY

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33 This bill allows a person to train and use dogs to hunt coyotes.