

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 424

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H.P. 304

House of Representatives, February 7, 2017

### **An Act To Extend the Big Game Season in Coastal Wildlife Management Areas**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PIERCE of Dresden.  
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals,  
HANLEY of Pittston, HARLOW of Portland, LYFORD of Eddington, PRESCOTT of  
Waterboro, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, STEARNS of Guilford, WOOD of Greene.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10105, sub-§18** is enacted to read:

3 **18. Commissioner's authority to allow hunting on Sunday.** The commissioner  
4 may allow hunting on a Sunday in an area or region the commissioner determines  
5 appropriate for the purposes of enhancing wildlife resource management or enhancing or  
6 promoting the hunting experience.

7 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 511, §1 and  
8 affected by §3 and c. 614, §§9 and 10, is further amended to read:

9 **9. Possession of hunting equipment on Sunday.** Possession of hunting equipment  
10 in the fields or forests or on the waters or ice in the State on Sunday when hunting is  
11 prohibited is prima facie evidence of a violation of section 11205, unless:

12 A. The hunting equipment is carried, securely wrapped, in a complete cover;

13 B. The hunting equipment is fastened in a case; or

14 C. The hunting equipment is carried in at least 2 separate pieces in such a manner  
15 that it can not be fired, unless the separate pieces are joined together. For the purpose  
16 of this subsection, a clip, magazine or cylinder of a firearm may not be considered a  
17 piece of the hunting equipment. Bows and arrows must be kept in a case or cover if  
18 broadheads or field points are kept attached to the arrows.

19 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11205, sub-§1, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2  
20 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

21 A. Hunt wild animals or wild birds on Sunday except when allowed by the  
22 commissioner under section 10105, subsection 18; or

23 **Sec. 4. Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to allow hunting**  
24 **on certain Sundays in certain areas of the State.** The Commissioner of Inland  
25 Fisheries and Wildlife shall allow hunting on 5 Sundays during the respective hunting  
26 seasons for bear, moose, deer and wild turkey on public land and private land of 5 acres  
27 or more with the landowner's permission in wildlife management areas A, B and C.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to allow  
30 hunting on Sunday and directs the commissioner to allow hunting on 5 Sundays for the  
31 respective hunting seasons for bear, moose, deer and wild turkey in coastal wildlife  
32 management areas on public land and private land of 5 acres or more with the  
33 landowner's permission.