

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

Date: 3/22/24

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 391, L.D. 614, "An Act to Provide a Free Antlerless Deer Permit to Certain Landowners Who Allow the Public to Hunt on Their Property"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Reduce Conflicts Between Landowners and Deer and Add an Additional Youth Deer Hunting Day'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10264, as amended by PL 2023, c. 187, §2, is further amended to read:

§10264. Maine Deer Management Fund

The Maine Deer Management Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to be used by the commissioner to fund or assist in funding predator control, to assist landowners with the prevention or management of landowner-deer conflict and to acquire or enhance deer habitat. If the funds from the fund are used to directly enhance or manage a deer wintering area on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, the land must be designated as a deer wintering area pursuant to section 1805-A. The commissioner shall establish on the department's online licensing system checkoff options that allow a person to donate money for predator control, landowner-deer conflict prevention or management or deer habitat acquisition or enhancement. ~~The checkoff options must be prominently displayed and contain web links to information about how the checkoff revenues have been and will be used. The commissioner shall also print in a prominent place on every paper application for a hunting license checkoff options that allow a person to donate money to the fund for predator control or deer habitat acquisition or enhancement. Revenues from the checkoffs must be deposited in the fund and used for purposes indicated by the checkoffs.~~

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Notwithstanding section 10801, subsection 4, \$2 of each deer registration fee collected
 2 under section 12301-A, subsection 3, paragraph C must be deposited in the fund and may
 3 be used to assist landowners with the prevention or management of landowner-deer
 4 conflicts. ~~Fifty percent of the funds deposited in the fund from the deer registration fees~~
 5 ~~must be used for predator control purposes and 50% of the deposited fees must be used to~~
 6 ~~acquire or enhance deer habitat.~~ In addition, the revenue from each antlerless deer permit
 7 fee collected under section 11152, subsection 9, minus administrative costs, must be
 8 deposited in the fund and be used for predator control purposes or to acquire or manage
 9 deer habitat. The commissioner may accept and deposit into the fund monetary gifts,
 10 donations or other contributions from public or private sources for the purposes specified
 11 in this section. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and
 12 accounts. The department shall report annually to the joint standing committee of the
 13 Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters on the fund and
 14 its utilization.

15 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11402, sub-§4, ¶C,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2
 16 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

17 C. Establish a 2-day youth deer hunting day period, to be held on the Friday and
 18 Saturday preceding the Saturday designated as an open day for residents of the State
 19 pursuant to section 11401.

20 **Sec. 3. Report.** By February 1, 2027, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
 21 shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
 22 over inland fisheries and wildlife matters that includes findings and recommendations
 23 related to the extension of the youth deer hunting period under the Maine Revised Statutes,
 24 Title 12, section 11402, subsection 4, paragraph C. The committee may report out a bill
 25 based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

26 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 27 allocations are made.

28 **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF**

29 **Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534**

30 Initiative: Provides allocations for expenditures related to assisting landowners with the
 31 prevention or management of landowner-deer conflicts.

32	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
33	All Other	\$0	\$71,628
34			
35	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$71,628</u>

36
 37 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
 38 number to read consecutively.

39 **SUMMARY**

40 This amendment replaces the bill, changes the title and makes the following changes.

1 1. It requires that funds from the Maine Deer Management Fund within the Department
2 of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife be used to help reduce conflicts between landowners and
3 deer and directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to add a checkoff option
4 on the department's online licensing system that allows a person to donate money for
5 landowner-deer conflict prevention and management.

6 2. It removes the provision that \$2 of each deer registration fee deposited in the Maine
7 Deer Management Fund within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife be used
8 for predator control and deer habitat purposes and instead provides that it may be used to
9 assist landowners with the prevention or management of deer conflicts.

10 3. It requires that revenue deposited in the Maine Deer Management Fund within the
11 Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from antlerless deer permit fees, minus
12 administrative costs, must be used for predator control purposes or to acquire or manage
13 deer habitat.

14 4. It extends the youth deer hunting period from one day to 2 days and establishes that
15 the period takes place on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Saturday designated as an
16 open day for residents of the State.

17 5. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by February 1, 2027 to
18 provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
19 inland fisheries and wildlife matters on the changes to youth deer hunting. The joint
20 standing committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the 133rd
21 Legislature in 2027.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 614

LR 1280(02)

An Act to Provide a Free Antlerless Deer Permit to Certain Landowners Who Allow the Public to Hunt on Their Property

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-851)
Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$71,628	\$71,628	\$71,628
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$71,628	\$71,628	\$71,628

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Under current law agents who collect the \$5 deer registration fee when a harvested deer is registered remit \$3 to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) and retain \$2. Instead, this bill will require the total amount of the registration fee to be remitted to DIFW with the \$2 deposited in the Deer Management Fund (DMF). Using an estimated 35,814 registrations, which is the average number of harvested deer from 2018 through 2023, the additional \$2 will generate \$71,628 annually beginning in fiscal year 2024-25. The bill includes a corresponding allocation to allow for the expenditure of additional revenue.

This bill also removes a ratio for types of expenditures from the DMF and adds new allowable uses of the fund. The bill also directs DIFW to incorporate a check-off box to the online licensing system to allow donations for assisting with deer conflict prevention and management which will increase Other Special Revenue Funds revenue.