

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 626

H.P. 403

House of Representatives, February 14, 2023

**An Act to Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage and Enhance
Sporting Opportunities for Maine's Youth by Allowing Maine's
Youth to Hunt on Sunday**

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 ARDELL of Monticello.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort Fairfield,
HAGGAN of Hampden.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2
3 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

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

5 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2
6 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

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

12 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9, ¶D** is enacted to read:

13 D. The hunting equipment is carried by a person hunting pursuant to section 11205,
14 subsection 1-A; or

15 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9, ¶E** is enacted to read:

16 E. The hunting equipment is carried by a person supervising a person hunting in
17 accordance with the requirements of section 11108-C and the supervised person is
18 hunting pursuant to section 11205, subsection 1-A.

19 **Sec. 5. 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 as provided in subsection 1-A;
22 or

23 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §11205, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

24 **1-A. Hunting allowed on Sunday.** A person who holds a valid junior hunting license,
25 a person who is under 18 years of age and holds a valid hunting license or a person 18 years
26 of age who is enrolled in secondary school and holds a valid hunting license may hunt wild
27 animals or wild birds on private land on Sunday with written consent from the landowner
28 subject to all other requirements, laws and rules governing hunting. The department shall
29 adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
30 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill allows licensed persons under 18 years of age who hold a valid hunting license
33 or a valid junior hunting license and persons 18 years of age who hold a valid hunting
34 license and are enrolled in secondary school to hunt wild animals and wild birds on private
35 land on Sundays with the landowner's written permission. The bill directs the Department
36 of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish rules to implement these provisions.