

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 814

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H.P. 503

House of Representatives, February 21, 2023

### **An Act to Restrict the Daytime and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes**

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

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, COPELAND of Saco, EATON of Deer Isle, GEIGER of Rockland, MATHIESON of Kittery, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§7**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended  
3 by c. 655, Pt. B, §100 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

4 **7. Mandatory hunting license revocation; coyote hunting violation.** A hunting  
5 license of a person convicted of hunting coyote in violation of section 11160 or ~~42001~~  
6 section 12002, subsection 2 must be revoked and that person is ineligible to obtain any  
7 hunting license for a period of one year from the date of conviction.

8 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12001**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 216, §1, is repealed.

9 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12002** is enacted to read:

10 **§12002. Seasons and restrictions for hunting coyotes**

11 **1. Day season.** There is an open season for hunting coyotes 30 minutes before sunrise  
12 to 30 minutes after sunset in all counties of the State from October 1st to March 31st. A  
13 person may not hunt, chase, pursue or kill a coyote by any means 30 minutes before sunrise  
14 to 30 minutes after sunset from April 1st to September 30th.

15 A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$500  
16 must be adjudged. The hunting license of a person who violates this subsection must be  
17 revoked and that person is ineligible to obtain any hunting license for a period of one year  
18 from the date of the violation.

19 **2. Night season.** Notwithstanding the prohibitions in section 11206, there is an open  
20 season for hunting coyotes 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise the  
21 following day in all counties of the State from December 16th to March 31st. A person may  
22 not hunt, chase, pursue or kill a coyote by any means 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes  
23 before sunrise the following day from April 1st to December 15th.

24 A. A person may not hunt coyotes 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise  
25 the following day without possessing an electronic, hand-held or mouth-operated  
26 predator calling device. A person who hunts coyotes in violation of this paragraph  
27 commits a Class E crime.

28 B. Notwithstanding section 11214, subsection 1, paragraph M, the commissioner may  
29 appoint agents to hunt coyotes 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise the  
30 following day using artificial illumination from October 1st to December 15th. The  
31 commissioner shall develop policies to make the affected public and affected law  
32 enforcement officers aware of any night hunting operations.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill does the following.

35 1. Current Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife rules allow for year-round  
36 hunting of coyotes during the day. This bill limits the open season for daytime hunting of  
37 coyotes to October 1st to March 31st and prohibits daytime hunting of coyotes at all other  
38 times during the year. For daytime hunting of coyotes during periods of the year outside  
39 the open season, the bill imposes a \$500 fine and a revocation of a person's hunting license  
40 for one year.

1           2. It amends the night hunting season for coyotes, which is currently December 16th  
2 to August 31st, to December 16th to March 31st.

3           3. It amends the period of time in which the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and  
4 Wildlife may appoint agents to hunt for coyotes at night, which is currently September 1st  
5 to December 15th, to October 1st to December 15th.