

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1563

H.P. 1008

House of Representatives, April 11, 2023

An Act to Allow a Resident of Agricultural Land to Enlist License Holders to Hunt on the Land

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R(t) B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, HEPLER of
Woolwich, SHAW of Auburn, Senator: INGWERSEN of York.

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,** wild animal populations in the State have the capacity to destroy crops and
4 cropland through grazing and other natural activities when they are concentrated in a
5 specific area; and

6 **Whereas,** every year farmers and other owners of agricultural land throughout the
7 State suffer significant economic damage due to depredation caused by wild animals; and

8 **Whereas,** crops for the upcoming growing season will be vulnerable to wild animals
9 before the effective date of acts of the Legislature for this legislative session; and

10 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
11 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
12 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
13 therefore,

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

15 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11108, sub-§1,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c. 494,
16 Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

17 **1. On certain land.** Notwithstanding section 11109, subsection 1 as it applies to this
18 subchapter, and subject to all other applicable laws and rules, a resident and a member of
19 the resident's immediate family, as long as the hunter's license to hunt is not under
20 suspension or revocation, may hunt without a license, including, but not limited to, an
21 archery hunting license, a crossbow permit and a muzzle-loading permit, and may enlist
22 one or more license holders under the direction and control of the resident to hunt, on a
23 single plot of land:

24 A. To which they are legally entitled to possession;

25 B. On which they are actually domiciled;

26 C. That is used exclusively for agricultural purposes; and

27 D. That is in excess of 10 acres.

28 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
29 takes effect when approved.

30 SUMMARY

31 This bill allows a resident who is authorized to hunt on agricultural land without a
32 hunting license to enlist one or more hunting license holders under the resident's direction
33 and control to assist the resident.