

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 709

H. P. 1140

House of Representatives, Feb. 19, 1931.

Received by unanimous consent. Referred to Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Pratt of Turner.

STATE OF MAINE .

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Trapping in the Southern Counties.

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

Trapping season in southern counties extended. Section seventy-two of chapter thirty-eight of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter three hundred sixty-eight of the laws of nineteen hundred twenty-nine, is hereby amended by striking out in the second line of said section, as amended, the word "fifteenth" and inserting in place thereof the word 'first', so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sec. 72. Trapping season regulated with reference to counties. Whoever from the first day of February to the first day of November, both days inclusive, hunts or traps any fur-bearing animal except wild hares and rabbits (which are protected under the provisions of section thirty-nine of this chapter), bob-cats, loup-cervier, Canada lynx, or muskrat, within the counties of Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Kennebec, Lincoln, Waldo, and Knox; or whoever from the first day of February to the fifteenth day of October, both days inclusive, hunts or traps any fur-bearing animal except wild hares and rabbits (which are protected as aforesaid), bob-cats, loup-cervier, Canada lynx, or muskrat, within the counties of Washington, Hancock, Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Franklin, Somerset, and Oxford; or whoever has in

possession at any time any fur-bearing animal or part or parts thereof taken in closed season, shall be subject to the penalties of this chapter.

(a) Provided that there shall be an annual closed season on muskrat in the counties of Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Kennebec, Lincoln, Waldo and Knox from the twenty-first day of April of each year to the nineteenth day of March of the following year, both days inclusive; and provided that there shall be annual closed seasons on muskrat in the counties of Washington, Hancock, Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Franklin, Somerset and Oxford from the first day of December of each year to the thirty-first day of March of the following year, both days inclusive, and from the first day of May to the thirty-first day of October following, both days inclusive.

(b) Provided, further, that it shall be unlawful for any person to set a trap at any time within twenty-five feet of, or to molest or destroy, a muskrat house.

(c) Provided, further, that the foregoing closed seasons on fur-bearing animals shall not apply to bears in towns and plantations where, under the provisions of chapter two hundred and sixty-one of the public laws of nineteen hundred twenty-nine, the commissioner of inland fisheries and game shall have declared a bounty on bears.

(d) Provided, further, that it shall be lawful to hunt skunks and raccoons at night when accompanied by a dog and using a rifle not larger than the regular 22 caliber (the 22 caliber hi-power being hereby expressly prohibited), or a shotgun not larger than 12 gauge, using not larger than No. 2 shot, and a kerosene light, from the first day of October of each year to the fifteenth day of the following December, both days inclusive, only in the counties of Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Sagadahoc, Kennebec, Lincoln, Waldo, Knox, and Oxford.

(e) Provided, further, that whoever at any time hunts or traps for or has in possession any beaver, or part thereof, except as provided in the preceding section, and whoever molests or destroys a beaver house, or sets a trap within twenty-five feet thereof, shall be subject to the penalties of this chapter.

(f) Provided, however, that any person may lawfully kill any wild animal (other than beaver) or any wild bird found destroying his property.

(g) Provided, further, that fox hounds when properly collared, showing name and residence of the owner or keeper, may be trained under the supervision of their owner or keeper from the fifteenth day of September to the fifteenth day of November.

(h) Provided, further, that nothing in this section shall be held to repeal any special muskrat law, now in effect, that relates to any particular stream or waters.'