

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - N I N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1170

S. P. 402

In Senate, March 10, 1959

Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Carpenter of Somerset. (by request)

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to Private Shooting Preserves.

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

R. S., c. 37, §§ 152-164, additional. Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes, as revised, is amended by adding 13 new sections to be numbered 152 to 164, to read as follows :

'Private Shooting Preserves

Sec. 152. Licenses or permits. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game is authorized and empowered to issue operating licenses or permits for shooting preserves, which shall be privately owned and operated, and to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper in carrying out the purposes of section 152 to 164.

Sec. 153. Requirements. Operating licenses or permits may be issued to any person, association or corporation for the operation of shooting preserves that meet the requirements prescribed.

Each shooting preserve shall contain a minimum of 100 acres in one tract of leased or owned land, and shall be restricted to not more than 500 contiguous acres.

The exterior boundaries of each shooting preserve shall be clearly defined and posted with signs erected around the extremity at intervals of 150 feet or less.

Sec. 154. Game hunted. Game which may be hunted under sections 152 to 164 shall be confined to artificially propagated pheasants, quail, chukar partridges, rabbit and hare.

A minimum of 100 of any species to be hunted on a shooting preserve shall be released on the licensed area during the shooting preserve season.

Sec. 155. Fees. Fees for shooting preserve licenses or permits shall be established at the rate of \$25 per year for the first 100 acres of shooting preserve area, plus \$5 per year for each additional 100 acres or parts thereof.

Sec. 156. Recovery of game. The operating licenses or permits issued by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game shall entitle holders thereof, and their guests or customers, to recover not more than 80% of the total number of each species of game bird or rabbit and hare released on the premises each year.

Sec. 157. Limitations and restrictions. Except for the required compliance with the restriction of the maximum number of released birds that may be recovered from each preserve each year, as provided in section 156, shooting preserve operators may establish their own shooting limitations and restrictions on the age, sex and number of birds that may be taken by each person.

Sec. 158. Open season. In order to give a reasonable opportunity for a fair return on a sizeable investment, the season established for shooting preserves shall be no less than 90 consecutive days as designated by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game during the 8-month period beginning May 1st, and ending December 31st.

Sec. 159. Tagging. All harvested game shall be tagged prior to being either consumed on the premises or removed therefrom, such tags to remain affixed until the game actually is delivered to the point of consumption. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game shall furnish tags at nominal cost to shooting preserve operators, the tags to be numbered consecutively and dated by year of issuance.

Sec. 160. Registration book. Each shooting preserve operator shall maintain a registration book listing all names, addresses and hunting license numbers of all shooters; the date on which they hunted; the amount of game and the species taken; and the tag numbers affixed to each carcass. An accurate record likewise must be maintained of the total number, by species, of game birds raised and purchased, and the date and number of all species released. These records shall be open to inspection by a delegated representative of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game at any reasonable time, and shall be the basis upon which the game-recovery limits in section 156 shall be determined.

Sec. 161. Wild game. Any wild game found on shooting preserves may be harvested in accordance with applicable game and hunting laws pertaining to open seasons, bag and possession limits, and so forth, as are established regularly by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game.

Sec. 162. **Hunting licenses.** State hunting licenses shall be required of all persons hunting or shooting on shooting preserves. State residents shall be licensed under the regularly established game and hunting laws. Nonresidents shall be required to possess a regular nonresident hunting license.

Sec. 163. **Designation of preserve.** Each shooting preserve license or permit issued by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game shall designate whether or not the preserve is open to the public on a commercial basis, or is restricted to a private or membership group. In the latter case, the license or permit shall specify that the area is a private shooting preserve. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game shall maintain accurate listing of the names, addresses and the location of the property, of all persons to whom shooting preserve licenses or permits are issued; said lists shall be made available in their entirety to anyone requesting same, and shall specify whether the preserves are public or private.

Sec. 164. **Revocation of license or permit.** The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game may revoke any shooting preserve license or permit issued under the authority of sections 152 to 164, when the licensee has been convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of sections 152 to 164. After such revocation, a new license or permit may be issued, if in the discretion of the commissioner the circumstances so warrant.'