

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 2014 to July 16, 2015

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 15, 2015

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2015

§8-C. Rules concerning electronic records and filing

1. Rules and orders; processes and procedures. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Supreme Judicial Court may adopt rules and issue orders to permit or require the use of electronic forms, filings, records, e-mail and electronic signatures whenever paper forms, filings, records, written notice, postal mail and written signatures are required for judicial, legal or any other court-related process under the Maine Revised Statutes.

The Supreme Judicial Court, by rule, may determine any other processes or procedures appropriate to ensure adequate preservation, disposition, integrity, security, appropriate accessibility and confidentiality of the electronic records.

2. Electronic signatures. An electronic signature may be accepted as a substitute for and, if accepted, has the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature. The Supreme Judicial Court shall determine the type of electronic signature required, the manner and format in which the signature is affixed to the electronic record and the criteria that must be met by a party, including attorneys, filing a document.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 79

H.P. 265 - L.D. 399

An Act To Establish a Youth Bear Hunting Day

Emergency preamble. **Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the long-term health of Maine's hunting tradition is dependent on the recruitment of young hunters, the number of which has been on the decline; and

Whereas, providing positive hunting opportunities for young hunters is essential to ensuring their long-term participation in the sport; and

Whereas, allowing youth to hunt bear on a day before other bear hunters are in the field will provide a positive hunting experience; and

Whereas, as August 31, 2015 is the opening day for hunting bear with a firearm, this Act must take effect before that date to establish a youth bear hunting day this year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following

legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11251, sub-§2 is enacted to read:

2. Youth bear hunting day. There is a youth hunting day for hunting bear without a dog or dogs on the Saturday prior to the opening day of the bear hunting season established under subsection 1, paragraph A. A person who holds a valid junior hunting license may hunt bear with a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow during youth bear hunting day. An adult supervisor, parent or guardian accompanying a youth on youth bear hunting day may not possess a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow while the youth is participating in the bear hunt.

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

Effective May 15, 2015.

CHAPTER 80

S.P. 364 - L.D. 1038

An Act To Amend the Emergency Rule-making Authority of the Department of Marine Resources

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6171, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 661, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Emergency rules. The commissioner may adopt or amend rules under the emergency procedures provided in Title 5, chapter 375 in the following circumstances:

A. Immediate action is necessary to protect or conserve any marine organism from unusual damage or imminent depletion;

B. An unusually large concentration of fishermen might deplete the supply of any marine organism;
or

C. Immediate action is necessary to comply with changes to federal or interstate fisheries management plans.

See title page for effective date.