

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**August 26, 2019**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**January 8, 2020 to March 17, 2020**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**

**NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**

**JUNE 16, 2020**

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

---

---

**Augusta, Maine  
2020**

**§781-A. Absentee ballot application; procedure on receipt**

Notwithstanding the absentee ballot application deadline in section 753-B, subsection 2, paragraph D, upon receipt of an application or written request for an absentee ballot prior to 5 p.m. on the day before election day from a uniformed service voter or overseas voter that is accepted pursuant to section 753-A or section 783, the clerk or the Secretary of State shall immediately issue an absentee ballot and return envelope by the authorized means designated by the voter in the application. If the ballot is to be transmitted to the voter by mail, the clerk or the Secretary of State shall type or write in ink the name and the residence address of the voter in the designated section of the return envelope. The Secretary of State shall provide a return envelope that moves free of postage under federal law.

**Sec. 19. 21-A MRSA §901, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 253, §57, is further amended to read:

To initiate proceedings for a people's veto referendum or the direct initiative of legislation, provided in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Sections 17 and 18, a voter shall submit a written application to the Department of the Secretary of State on a form designed by the Secretary of State. The application must contain the names, residence addresses, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and signatures of 5 voters, in addition to the applicant, who are designated to receive any notices in proceedings under this chapter. The Secretary of State shall provide such notices by e-mail only. For a direct initiative, the application must contain the full text of the proposed law and a summary that explains the purpose and intent of the direct initiative in both electronic and printed formats. The voter submitting the application shall sign the application in the presence of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State's designee or a notary public.

**Sec. 20. 30-A MRSA §2528, sub-§6, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

D. There must be a place on the ballot for the voter to designate the voter's choice.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 637  
H.P. 1359 - L.D. 1905**

**An Act To Clarify  
Crossbow-related Hunting  
Laws**

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

**Whereas**, this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period in order to provide for the proper implementation of the legislation for the 2020 hunting season; 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 §10952, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 301, §7, is further amended to read:

**1. Hunting with a bow and arrow or a crossbow.** A person may, except as otherwise provided in this Part, hunt any wild bird or wild animal with a hand-held bow and arrow during any open season on that bird or animal if the person holds a valid archery hunting license and may, except as otherwise provided in this Part, hunt any wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that bird or animal if the person holds a valid archery license or any hunting license that is not a junior hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license and a valid crossbow hunting license permit.

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10953, sub-§1, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 98, §1, is amended to read:

E. Notwithstanding the restriction in section 11403 to hunting with bow and arrow only, hunt deer with a crossbow during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 ~~open archery~~ archery-only hunting season on deer established by the commissioner in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to section 11403. A Except as provided in subsection 1-C and section 10853, subsection 11, a person may not take an antlerless deer with a crossbow under this paragraph during an open archery season on deer unless that person possesses an antlerless deer permit in accordance with section 11152. A person 65 years of age or older who hunts deer with a crossbow pursuant to this paragraph and subsection 1-C and a person who holds a permit under section 10853, subsection 11 and hunts deer with a crossbow pursuant to this paragraph may not take an antlerless deer in a wildlife management district for which antlerless deer permits have not been issued.

This paragraph is repealed January 1, 2023; and

**Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10953, sub-§1-C**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 325, §3, is further amended to read:

**1-C. Hunting with a crossbow; 65 years of age or older.** A person 65 years of age or older who meets the eligibility requirements of sections 11105, 11106 and 11162 may hunt a wild bird or a wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal subject to this Part; and may take an antlerless deer with a crossbow during the regular archery-only deer hunting season without an antlerless deer permit issued in accordance with section 11152.

**Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11162, sub-§1**, as reallocated by RR 2015, c. 1, §8, is amended to read:

**1. Hunting or archery license.** A resident or non-resident 16 years of age or older who has satisfied the requirements of subsection 3 3-A or who is exempt under subsection 4 and who holds a valid hunting or archery hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license or archery hunting license may obtain a crossbow permit to hunt with a crossbow from the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent.

**Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11162, sub-§3**, as reallocated by RR 2015, c. 1, §8, is repealed.

**Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §11162, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

**3-A. Crossbow hunter education requirements.** Except as provided in subsection 3-B, a person, other than a person holding a junior hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license, who applies for a crossbow permit must submit:

A. Satisfactory evidence of the following:

(1) Successful completion of an archery hunting education program or other hunter safety course under section 10108;

(2) Successful completion of a crossbow hunting education program under section 10108 or equivalent archery hunting education program as determined by the commissioner; or

(3) Having previously held a valid adult archery hunting license or any valid hunting license that is not a junior hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license and a valid crossbow permit issued specifically for the purpose of hunting with a crossbow or bow and arrow in this State or any other state, province or country in any year after 1979.

When proof or evidence cannot be otherwise provided, the applicant may substitute a signed affidavit that the applicant has previously held the required completed archery hunting education program or hunter safety course and crossbow hunting

education program or has previously held a valid archery hunting license or any valid hunting license that is not a junior hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license and a valid crossbow permit in accordance with this section.

**Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §11162, sub-§3-B** is enacted to read:

**3-B. Requirements exemption.** A person who is an enrolled member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or the Aroostook Band of Micmacs who presents certification from the respective reservation governor or the Aroostook Micmac Council stating that the person is an enrolled member of a federally recognized nation, band or tribe listed in this subsection is exempt from the requirements of subsection 3-A.

**Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §11162, sub-§4**, as reallocated by RR 2015, c. 1, §8, is amended to read:

**4. Crossbow hunter education course exemption for members of armed forces domiciled in State.** A member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty who is permanently stationed outside of the United States and home on leave is exempt from crossbow hunter education course requirements under subsection 3 3-A if that member shows proof at the time of application for the license that that member's home state of record, as recorded in that person's military service records, is Maine. A person who no longer meets the requirements of this subsection must satisfy the conditions for exemption under subsection 3 3-A.

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

Effective March 18, 2020.

---



---

CHAPTER 638

H.P. 1368 - L.D. 1920

**An Act To Amend Maine's Fish and Wildlife Licensing and Registration Laws**

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10853, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**3. Paraplegics.** A resident paraplegic or a nonresident paraplegic who is a resident of another state may obtain upon application, at no cost, all hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, including permits, stamps and other permission needed to hunt, trap and fish. A license holder under this subsection who qualifies to hunt during the special season on deer under section 11153 and