



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 98

S.P. 46

In Senate, January 17, 2017

An Act To Eliminate Permits for Wild Turkey Hunting, Expand the Bag Limits and Expand Opportunities for Registering Wild Turkeys

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.

Cosponsored by Representative BLACK of Wilton and

Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, DIAMOND of Cumberland, DOW of Lincoln, SAVIELLO of Franklin, WOODSOME of York, Representative: STEARNS of Guilford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶E-1**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015,
3 c. 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

4 E-1. A resident apprenticeship hunter license, which includes a bear hunting permit
5 ~~and a wild turkey hunting permit~~ under ~~sections~~ section 11151 ~~and 11155,~~
6 ~~respectively~~, is \$26 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit
7 requirements in subchapter 3.

8 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶P**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c.
9 494, Pt. D, §2, is amended to read:

10 P. A nonresident apprenticeship hunter license, which permits the hunting of all legal
11 species and includes a bear hunting permit ~~and a wild turkey hunting permit~~ under
12 ~~sections~~ section 11151 ~~and 11155, respectively~~, is \$115.

13 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11155**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §10, is repealed.

14 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11701, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 236, §6, is further
15 amended to read:

16 The commissioner may establish open seasons for hunting wild turkeys, designate
17 areas that are open to the taking of wild turkeys in any part of the State, ~~prescribe the~~
18 ~~form and regulate the number of permits to be issued~~, determine the number and sex of
19 the birds to be harvested, establish bag limits, ~~establish permit eligibility requirements~~,
20 establish legal hunting times, specify the types of weapons to be used during any open
21 wild turkey hunting season and make any other rules that the commissioner considers
22 necessary for the protection of the wild turkey resource. The rules must permit the use of
23 a crossbow during the spring open wild turkey hunting season.

24 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11701, sub-§1, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 387, §3, is
25 amended to read:

26 A. A person to take up to ~~2~~ 3 male wild turkeys without any additional fee for ~~the~~
27 ~~taking of the 2nd~~ more than one wild turkey;

28 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §11701, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 127, §5 and
29 affected by §6, is further amended to read:

30 **2. Fall seasons.** ~~Beginning with the 2016 fall open season, the~~ The commissioner
31 shall establish by rule 2 fall open seasons for hunting wild turkeys. Unless the
32 commissioner determines that sound management principles require otherwise, the rule
33 must establish 2 fall open seasons that include the month of October and a week in the
34 month of November and allow a person to take up to a total of ~~2~~ 3 wild turkeys over both
35 seasons regardless of sex without any additional fee for ~~the taking of a 2nd~~ more than one
36 wild turkey.

37 **Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §11752, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §181
38 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

