



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 1020

H.P. 756

House of Representatives, March 10, 2011

### An Act To Allow a Spring Bear Hunting Season

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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  
Clerk

Presented by Representative KESCHL of Belgrade.  
Cosponsored by Senator THOMAS of Somerset and  
Representatives: CHASE of Wells, FREDETTE of Newport, HARMON of Palermo,  
HARVELL of Farmington, JOHNSON of Eddington, WINSOR of Norway, Senator: ROSEN  
of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11151, sub-§1**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and  
3 amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §118 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

4 **1. Permit required.** ~~Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a~~ A  
5 person may ~~not~~ hunt for bear ~~without~~ with a valid permit from the 3rd Monday in May to  
6 the 4th Saturday in June and from the first Monday preceding September 1st to the day  
7 preceding the open firearm season on deer. This section does not apply to trapping for  
8 bear.

9 Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which  
10 a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be  
11 imposed.

12 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11251, sub-§1, ¶A**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and  
13 amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §155 and affected by §422, is repealed and the following  
14 enacted in its place:

15 A. There are open seasons on hunting bear from:

16 (1) The 3rd Monday in May to the 4th Saturday in June annually; and

17 (2) The first Monday preceding September 1st to November 30th annually.

18 The commissioner may, pursuant to section 10104, subsection 1, adopt rules  
19 prohibiting the use of bait to hunt black bear during any portion of the open bear  
20 hunting seasons. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules  
21 as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

22 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11251, sub-§1, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2  
23 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

24 D. The commissioner may terminate the open ~~season~~ seasons on bear as established  
25 in paragraphs A and B at any time in any part of the State if, in the commissioner's  
26 opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to adverse weather  
27 conditions or severe hunting or trapping pressure.

28 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11301, sub-§1, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2  
29 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

30 E. The bait is placed not more than 30 days before the opening day of ~~the~~ a season  
31 and not after October 31st of the fall season and not after June 4th of the spring  
32 season;

33 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11301, sub-§1, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2  
34 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

35 F. The bait areas will be cleaned up by November 10th of the fall season and by  
36 June 11th of the spring season, as defined by the state litter laws; and

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## **SUMMARY**

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This bill establishes a spring season on hunting bear from the 3rd Monday in May to

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the 4th Saturday in June.