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Date: (Filing No. H-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 114, L.D. 156, Bill, “An Act To Lower the Eligibility Age for a Junior Hunting License”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Eliminate the Minimum Age Requirement for a Junior Hunting License and Increase the Number of Times a Person May Hold an Apprentice Hunter License'

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 8 in the 4th line (page 1, line 7 in L.D.) by striking out the following: ", ~~10~~ 8 years of age or older," and inserting the following: '~~10~~ years of age or older.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11102, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and repealed and replaced by c. 655, Pt. B, §111 and affected by §422, is repealed.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in paragraph B in the first line (page 1, line 24 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~8~~ years of age or older and" and inserting the following: '~~years of age or older and~~'

Amend the bill in section 4 in subsection 2 in the first line (page 1, line 28 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~8~~ years of age or older and" and inserting the following: '~~years of age or older and~~'

Amend the bill in section 5 in subsection 2 in the first line (page 1, line 32 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~8~~ years of age or older and" and inserting the following: '~~years of age or older and~~'

Amend the bill in section 6 in subsection 1 in the 2nd line (page 2, line 2 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "over ~~10~~ 8 years of age" and inserting the following: '~~over 10~~ years of age'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the bill in section 6 in subsection 1 in the 3rd line (page 2, line 3 in L.D.) by
2 striking out the following: "over ~~10~~ 8 years of age" and inserting the following: '~~over 10~~
3 years of age'

4 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

5 '**Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §11108-B, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 538, §19, is
6 further amended to read:

7 **3. Eligibility.** A resident or nonresident 16 years of age or older who has never held
8 a valid adult hunting license in this State, or any other state, province or country, is
9 eligible to obtain an apprentice hunter license. Notwithstanding section 11105, a person is
10 eligible to obtain an apprentice hunter license without having successfully completed a
11 hunter safety course. A person may not obtain an apprentice hunter license more than
12 ~~twice~~ 5 times. A person selected to receive a moose permit may not then purchase an
13 apprentice hunter license to meet the licensing requirements for that permit.

14 **Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §11108-C**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 538, §20, is amended to
15 read:

16 **§11108-C. Eligibility and restrictions for a junior hunting license**

17 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
18 following terms have the following meanings.

19 A. "Adult supervisor" means:

20 (1) The parent or guardian of the junior hunter who holds or has held a valid
21 Maine hunting license or successfully completed a hunter safety course that
22 meets the requirements of section 11105; or

23 (2) A person 18 years of age or older who:

24 (a) Is approved by the parent or guardian of the junior hunter; and

25 (b) Holds or has held a valid Maine hunting license or successfully
26 completed a hunter safety course that meets the requirements of section
27 11105.

28 B. "In the presence of" means in visual and voice contact without the use of visual or
29 audio enhancement devices, including but not limited to binoculars and citizen band
30 radios.

31 **2. Eligibility.** A resident or nonresident who is ~~at least 10 years of age and~~ under 16
32 years of age may obtain a junior hunting license, which allows that person to hunt subject
33 to the conditions set out in this section.

34 **3. Supervision of junior hunters.** A hunter who is ~~at least 10 years of age and~~
35 under 16 years of age may not hunt unless that person holds a junior hunting license and
36 is in the presence of and under the effective control of an adult supervisor.

37 **4. Supervision of junior hunters 16 years of age.** A hunter 16 years of age who
38 obtained a junior ~~hunter~~ hunter hunting license before that person reached 16 years of age may
39 not hunt with that license unless the person is in the presence of ~~or~~ and under the effective

1 control of an adult supervisor or the person has successfully completed a hunter safety
2 course acceptable under section 11105. The following penalties apply to a violation of
3 this subsection:

4 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine
5 of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged; and

6 B. A person who violates paragraph A after having been adjudicated as having
7 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period
8 commits a Class E crime.

9 **5. Expiration of junior hunting license issued to person 15 years of age.** A junior
10 hunting license issued to a person who is 15 years of age is valid through the calendar
11 year for which the license is issued. In addition to the requirements of subsection 4, all
12 other permit requirements applicable to a person who is 16 years of age or older apply to
13 a person who continues to hunt with a junior hunting license under this subsection after
14 reaching that person's 16th birthday.

15 **6. Penalties for supervisors of junior hunters.** A person who is the adult
16 supervisor of a holder of a valid junior hunting license when that junior hunter violates
17 any provision of this Part pertaining to hunting:

18 A. Commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than
19 \$500 may be adjudged; and

20 B. After having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations
21 under this Part within the previous 5-year period, commits a Class E crime.'

22 Amend the bill in section 8 in paragraph A in the first line (page 2, line 21 in L.D.) by
23 striking out the following: "8 years of age or older and" and inserting the following:
24 '~~years of age or older and~~'

25 Amend the bill in section 9 in paragraph F in the first line (page 2, line 29 in L.D.) by
26 striking out the following: "8 years of age or older and" and inserting the following:
27 '~~years of age or older and~~'

28 Amend the bill by inserting after section 9 the following:

29 '**Sec. 10. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§13**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 143, §1, is
30 amended to read:

31 **13. Hunting adventure permits for children.** Notwithstanding subsection 6 ~~and~~
32 ~~section 11102~~, the commissioner may issue 2 moose permits to a nonprofit organization
33 dedicated to providing hunting and fishing adventures to children under 21 years of age
34 with life-threatening, critical or terminal illnesses. The commissioner may issue these
35 permits upon written request by an eligible nonprofit organization but may not issue more
36 than 2 permits in total for a calendar year. These permits are in addition to the moose
37 hunting permits issued under subsection 2 for each wildlife management district and are
38 at no cost to the organization.

39 **Sec. 11. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.'

40 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
41 section number to read consecutively.

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SUMMARY

The bill lowers the eligibility age for a junior hunting license from 10 to 8 years of age; this amendment instead removes the minimum age requirement for a junior hunting license. This amendment also provides that the adult supervisor of the junior hunter must hold or have held a Maine hunting license or have successfully completed a hunter safety course. It also increases the number of times a person may hold an apprentice hunter license from twice to 5 times before becoming ineligible to purchase the license. This amendment provides an effective date of January 1, 2016.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)