

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

—  
H.P. 493 - L.D. 751

**An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws Related to the Training of Dogs and  
Open Training Seasons**

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

**Whereas,** a provision of law allowing for the training of dogs to hunt bear in portions of Washington County and Hancock County is due to be repealed on May 1, 2025; and

**Whereas,** allowing this provision to lapse could have implications for unwanted bear-landowner interactions; and

**Whereas,** enactment of this legislation would continue to authorize the training of dogs for bear hunting in portions of Washington County and Hancock County; 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 §12051, sub-§1, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 2023, c. 172, §1, is amended to read:

D. Notwithstanding paragraph C, ~~until May 1, 2025,~~ in those portions of Washington County and Hancock County that are situated south of Route 9, a resident may train up to 6 dogs at any one time on bear from July 1st to the 4th day preceding the open season on hunting bear except that permission is required to train dogs on land used for wild blueberry production.

~~This paragraph is repealed May 1, 2025.~~

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