



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1992

H.P. 1478

House of Representatives, February 16, 2022

An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Turkey

Reported by Representative LANDRY of Farmington for the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 121, section 7.

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12301-B** is enacted to read:

3 **§12301-B. Electronic registration of turkey**

4 Beginning in 2023, the department shall allow electronic registration of turkey. The
5 commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules may include
6 exceptions to or electronic means of compliance with any of the requirements of this
7 chapter for a person who registers a turkey in accordance with the rules. Rules adopted
8 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
9 subchapter 2-A.

10 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12302-A, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 121, §2, is further
11 amended to read:

12 **1. Requirement.** Except as provided in section 12307 or rules adopted under section
13 12301-B, a person who kills a bear, deer, moose or wild turkey shall:

14 A. Remain with that animal until it is registered, except as provided in section
15 12303-A;

16 B. Present that animal for registration in that person's name at the first open registration
17 station for that animal on the route taken by that person; and

18 C. Leave the registration seal attached to the animal in accordance with section
19 12301-A until that animal is processed and packaged for consumption.

20 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12303-A, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 54, §11 and c.
21 121, §3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

22 **1. Time limits.** Except as provided in subsection 1-A and in section 12307 or in rules
23 adopted under section 12301-B, a person may not keep any of the following unregistered
24 wild animals for more than 18 hours:

25 A. Bear;

26 B. Deer;

27 C. Moose; or

28 D. Wild turkey.

29 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §12304-A**, as repealed by PL 2021, c. 54, §12 and amended by
30 c. 121, §4, is repealed.

31 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §12304-B, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 54, §13, is amended
32 to read:

33 **1. Wild turkey.** A Except as provided in rules adopted under section 12301-B, a
34 person ~~must~~ shall present a wild turkey in its entirety for registration, except that the viscera
35 may be removed in a manner that permits determination of the sex of the animal.

36 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12306, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 121, §5, is further
37 amended to read:

38 **1. Prohibition.** Except as provided in section 12307, a person may not possess any of
39 the following animals if that animal has not been legally registered as provided in this

1 chapter or rules adopted under section 12301-B, unless that animal is possessed in
2 accordance with chapter 921:

- 3 A. Bear;
- 4 B. Deer;
- 5 C. Moose; or
- 6 D. Wild turkey.

7 **Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §12307**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 121, §6, is amended to read:

8 **§12307. Exception for fall turkey hunting**

9 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a person who kills a wild turkey
10 during any fall open season on hunting wild turkey in 2022 or 2023 established by rule by
11 the commissioner under section 11701 is not required to register or attach a tag to that
12 turkey.

13 **Sec. 8. Report.** The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in conjunction with
14 adopting rules governing electronic registration of turkey pursuant to the Maine Revised
15 Statutes, Title 12, section 12301-B, shall examine laws governing the tagging and
16 registration of harvested animals to determine if there are laws that should be updated or
17 revised to facilitate an electronic tagging system for turkey. The department shall submit
18 a report of its findings and recommendations, together with any suggested legislation, to
19 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and
20 wildlife matters by November 2, 2022. The committee may report out a bill related to
21 electronic tagging to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill, which is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries
24 and Wildlife pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 121, does the following.

25 1. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules allowing
26 for the electronic registration of turkey beginning in 2023.

27 2. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to report to the joint
28 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife
29 matters by November 2, 2022 on additional statutory changes needed in order to facilitate
30 the electronic tagging of turkey. It authorizes the committee to report out a bill related to
31 electronic tagging to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.