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Legislative Document

No. 10

S.P. 17

In Senate, January 13, 2021

An Act To Allow Resident Hunters To Harvest 2 Bears per Bear Hunting Season

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Representative STEARNS of Guilford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§6, ¶E**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2011, c.
3 691, Pt. A, §7, is amended to read:

4 E. Buying or selling bear, hunting or trapping bear after having killed 2 if the person
5 is a nonresident or after having killed 3 if the person is a resident or exceeding the bag
6 limit on bear, in violation of section 11217, 11351 or 12260;

7 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11351, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 309, §2, is further
8 amended to read:

9 **1. Hunting or trapping bear; 2-bear limit for nonresidents; 3-bear limit for**
10 **residents.** A person nonresident may not hunt or trap bear after that person has killed or
11 registered one during an open season under section 11251 and one during the open season
12 on trapping bear under section 12260. A resident may not hunt or trap bear after that person
13 has killed or registered 2 during an open season under section 11251 and one during the
14 open season on trapping bear under section 12260.

15 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11351, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 309, §3, is further
16 amended to read:

17 **2. Exceeding bag limit on bears.** ~~A person may not possess more than 2 bears in any~~
18 ~~calendar year, except a person may keep more than one legally obtained bear in that~~
19 ~~person's home or as otherwise provided in law.;~~

20 A. If the person is a nonresident, possess more than 2 bears in any calendar year; or

21 B. If the person is a resident, possess more than 3 bears in any calendar year.

22 Notwithstanding paragraphs A and B, a person may keep more than one legally obtained
23 bear in that person's home or as otherwise provided by law.

24 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §12260, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 309, §6, is further
25 amended to read:

26 **5. Exceeding bag limit on bears.** Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a ~~person~~
27 nonresident may not possess more than 2 bears in any calendar year, and a resident may
28 not possess more than 3 bears in any calendar year. A person who violates this subsection
29 commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative
30 involving a term of imprisonment not to exceed 180 days and a fine of not less than \$1,000,
31 none of which may be suspended.

32 SUMMARY

33 This bill allows bear hunters who are residents of the State to hunt and kill 2 bears per
34 bear hunting season.