**An Act To Control the Means of Hunting Coyotes**

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

**Sec.** **1. 7 MRSA §3911,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 254, §3, is further amended to read:

**§****3911.** **Dogs at large**

It is unlawful for any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to be at large~~, except when used for~~ ~~hunting~~. The owner or keeper of any dog found at large is subject to the penalties provided in this chapter.

**Sec.** **2. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§7,** as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §100 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

**7.** **Mandatory hunting license revocation; coyote hunting violation.**  A hunting license of a person convicted of hunting coyote in violation of section ~~11160~~ 11206; section 11227, subsection 8; or ~~12001~~ section 11228, subsection 4 must be revoked and that person is ineligible to obtain any hunting license for a period of one year from the date of conviction.

**Sec.** **3. 12 MRSA §11160,** as corrected by RR 2011, c. 1, §17, is repealed.

**Sec.** **4. 12 MRSA §11227, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

**8.** **Prohibition.**  A person may not hunt coyote by the use or placement of bait. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500 may be adjudged.

**Sec.** **5. 12 MRSA §11228,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 432, §2, is amended to read:

**§****11228.** **Hunting with dogs**

**1.** **Collar required.**  A person may not hunt with a dog in pursuit of bear~~, coyote~~ or bobcat unless the dog has a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of that dog.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500 may be adjudged.

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

**2.** **Limit on number of dogs.**  A person or persons may not use more than 6 dogs at any one time to hunt ~~coyotes or~~ bobcats. A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime.

**~~3.~~** **~~Night hunting with dogs.~~** ~~A person may not use a dog to hunt coyotes during the~~ ~~period from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. A person who violates~~ ~~this subsection commits a Class E crime.~~

**4.** **Prohibition.**  A person may not hunt with a dog in pursuit of coyote. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than $100 or more than $500 may be adjudged.

**Sec.** **6. 12 MRSA c. 915, sub-c. 12,** as amended, is repealed.

**SUMMARY**

This bill amends the hunting laws by:

1. Removing the hunting exception from the prohibition of allowing dogs at large;

2. Repeals provisions allowing coyote hunting at night and hunting with dogs;

3. Provides for hunting license revocation for the hunting of coyotes at night, with dogs or by the use or placement of bait; and

4. Prohibits the hunting of coyotes by the use or placement of bait or with dogs.