



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 27

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H.P. 28

House of Representatives, January 9, 2019

### **An Act To Allow the Use of Crossbows during the Archery Season on Deer**

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Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative THERIAULT of China.  
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and  
Representatives: HANLEY of Pittston, LYFORD of Eddington, MASON of Lisbon,  
NADEAU of Winslow, REED of Carmel, SKOLFIELD of Weld, Senator: DAVIS of  
Piscataquis.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10953, sub-§1, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 538, §14, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 D. Hunt deer with a crossbow during the open firearm season on deer as provided in  
5 section 11401 and during the regular archery and crossbow season on deer as  
6 provided in section 11403.

7 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11109-A, sub-§3, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 163, §1 and  
8 affected by §3, is amended to read:

9 A. One deer during either the regular open firearm season or the regular ~~archery-only~~  
10 archery and crossbow season or the special muzzle-loading season in accordance with  
11 sections 11401, 11403 and 11404, respectively;

12 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11403**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 357, §2, is further amended  
13 to read:

14 **§11403. Regular archery and crossbow deer hunting season**

15 **2. Open archery and crossbow season on deer.** The commissioner shall by rule  
16 establish a regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow season beginning at least 30 days  
17 prior and extending to the beginning of the regular deer hunting season, as described in  
18 section 11401, subsection 1, paragraph A, for the purpose of hunting deer with bow and  
19 arrow ~~only~~ and crossbow. During the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow season  
20 on deer the following restrictions apply.

21 A. A person may not take a deer with bow and arrow during a regular ~~archery-only~~  
22 archery and crossbow season unless that person uses a hand-held bow and broadhead  
23 arrow in accordance with section 11214, subsection 1, paragraph P.

24 A-1. A person may not take a deer with a crossbow during a regular archery and  
25 crossbow season unless that person uses a crossbow in accordance with section  
26 10953, subsection 3.

27 B. A person may not carry firearms of any kind while hunting any species of wildlife  
28 with bow and arrow or crossbow during the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and  
29 crossbow season on deer, except that a person who holds a license that allows hunting  
30 with firearms may carry a handgun. This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit  
31 a person from carrying a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 25, section  
32 2001-A.

33 C. Except as provided in section 11109-A, subsection 3, if a person takes a deer with  
34 bow and arrow or crossbow during the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow  
35 season on deer, that person is precluded from further hunting for deer during that  
36 year.

37 D. Except as provided in this subsection, the provisions of this Part concerning deer  
38 are applicable to the taking of deer with bow and arrow or crossbow, including the  
39 transportation, registration and possession of deer taken by this method.

1 A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime.

2 **SUMMARY**

3 This bill allows crossbows to be used during the regular archery-only deer hunting  
4 season.