



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 703

H.P. 479

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine To Protect the People's Right To Hunt, Fish and Harvest
Wildlife**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WARD of Dedham.
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: HANINGTON of Lincoln, HICKMAN of Winthrop, LOCKMAN of
Amherst, LYFORD of Eddington, MALABY of Hancock, PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, REED of
Carmel, SAWICKI of Auburn.

1 **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each branch of the
2 Legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the Constitution of Maine be
3 proposed:

4 **Constitution, Art. IX, §26** is enacted to read:

5 **Section 26. Personal right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife; limitations.**

6 Every citizen has the personal right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, subject only to
7 statutes enacted by the Legislature and to rules adopted by the state agency designated to
8 promote wildlife conservation and management and to preserve the future of hunting and
9 fishing. Public hunting, fishing and harvesting wildlife are a preferred means of
10 managing and controlling wildlife. This section may not be construed to modify any
11 provision of law relating to trespass or property rights.

12 ; and be it further

13 **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date.**

14 **Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their
15 respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for
16 holding a statewide election, at a statewide election held in the month of November
17 following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment
18 proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

19 "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to provide that the
20 citizens of Maine have the personal right to hunt, fish and harvest
21 wildlife, subject to laws and rules that promote wildlife conservation and
22 preserve the future of hunting and fishing, and to provide that public
23 hunting, fishing and harvesting wildlife are a preferred means of
24 managing and controlling wildlife?"

25 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
26 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding
27 square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and
28 declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of
29 State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall
30 review the returns. If it appears that a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of the
31 amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment
32 becomes part of the Constitution of Maine on the date of the proclamation; and be it
33 further

34 **Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the Secretary of State
35 shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies
36 of this resolution necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

37 **SUMMARY**

38 This resolution proposes to amend the Constitution of Maine to provide that the
39 citizens of Maine have the personal right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, subject to laws
40 and rules that promote wildlife conservation and preserve the future of hunting and

1 fishing, and to provide that public hunting, fishing and harvesting wildlife are a preferred
2 means of managing and controlling wildlife.