



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 777

H.P. 502

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

An Act to Standardize the Muzzle-loading Season Statewide

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 26, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MASON of Lisbon.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CAMPBELL of Orrington, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield,
DRINKWATER of Milford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FOSTER of Dexter,
GUERRETTE of Caribou, THORNE of Carmel.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11404, sub-§1-A**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 280, §2, is amended
3 by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

4 The commissioner may terminate this open season at any time in an area if, in the
5 commissioner's opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to adverse
6 weather conditions or severe hunting pressure. The length of the special muzzle-loading
7 season ~~is as follows~~ must be the same in all regions of the State and established by rule.

8 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11404, sub-§1-A**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 280, §2, is amended
9 by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

10 ~~The commissioner shall establish by rule the length of the special muzzle-loading season.~~
11 ~~The commissioner may establish seasons of different lengths in different regions of the~~
12 ~~State. The season may extend for no more than 12 hunting days in any part of the State.~~

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill establishes that the muzzle-loading-only open season on deer must be the same
15 in all areas of the State.