



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 831

H.P. 520

House of Representatives, February 21, 2023

An Act Regarding Low Success Rates for Moose Hunting

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WOOD of Greene.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COSTAIN of Plymouth, DUNPHY of Embden, LANDRY of Farmington, MASON of Lisbon, NESS of Fryeburg, THORNE of Carmel, WHITE of Guilford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11552, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and
3 affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

4 **2. Moose management.** To effectively manage the moose herd in the State, the
5 commissioner may by rule establish:

6 A. The number of moose permits to be issued every year, including a percentage for
7 antlerless moose;

8 B. The length of the moose hunting season; ~~and~~

9 C. The timing of the moose hunting season; and

10 D. The adjustment of the moose hunting season in each wildlife management district
11 based on the success rate for moose hunting in that district, such that wildlife
12 management districts 7 and 8 each have 2 independent moose hunting seasons, one in
13 September and one in October.

14 **Sec. 2. Rules.** The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall adopt rules
15 specifying when each wildlife management district will be open for moose hunting under
16 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 11552, such that if a district had a less than
17 50% success rate for moose hunts over 2 consecutive seasons, the district must begin its
18 open hunting season in the first week of the moose hunting season. Wildlife management
19 districts 7 and 8 must each have 2 independent moose hunting seasons, one in September
20 and one in October. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules
21 pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, when establishing
24 rules that manage moose hunting seasons, to take into consideration the moose hunting
25 success rate of each wildlife management district when establishing the beginning date for
26 moose hunting in that district. The bill also directs the commissioner to establish 2
27 independent moose hunting seasons in wildlife management districts 7 and 8.