



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 937

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H.P. 602

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

### **An Act to Establish a Permit to Hunt Coyote over Bait**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on March 5, 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, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MASON of Lisbon.  
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and  
Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BLIER of Buxton,  
CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, FOLEY of Wells, MORRIS of  
Turner, WOOD of Greene.

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

2               **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11164** is enacted to read:

3       **§11164. Permit to hunt coyote over bait**

4               **1. Permit required.** Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may  
5 not hunt coyote over bait unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section.  
6 Each day a person violates this subsection, that person commits a Class E crime for which  
7 a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be  
8 imposed.

9               **2. Eligibility; hunting license required.** A person who possesses a valid hunting  
10 license is eligible to obtain a permit from the commissioner or the commissioner's  
11 authorized agent to hunt coyote over bait from September 1st to December 15th, as long as  
12 the person complies with the coyote bait placement provisions established in section 11227,  
13 subsection 2-A.

14               **3. Issuance; fee.** The commissioner shall issue a permit to hunt coyote over bait to an  
15 eligible person at a fee of \$4.

16               **4. Rules.** The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the proper administration  
17 and enforcement of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine  
18 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

19               **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11227, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

20               **2-A. Placement of bait for hunting coyote.** A person who has obtained a permit to  
21 hunt coyote over bait pursuant to section 11164 shall comply with the bait placement  
22 provisions in this section and may place coyote bait only in towns known to have active  
23 deer wintering areas located within wildlife management districts 1 to 14, 18, 19, 27 and  
24 28.

25               The commissioner shall establish rules to administer the placement of coyote bait pursuant  
26 to this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as  
27 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

28                               **SUMMARY**

29               This bill establishes that a person who possesses a valid hunting license may obtain a  
30 permit to hunt coyote over bait between September 1st and December 15th in wildlife  
31 management districts 1 to 14, 18, 19, 27 and 28, as long as the person places coyote bait in  
32 towns known to have active deer wintering areas and the person follows other bait  
33 placement and use provisions already in statute. The bill also directs the Commissioner of  
34 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish rules related to the placement of coyote bait and  
35 sets a fee for the permit at \$4.