



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1241

H.P. 789

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

An Act to Allow Sunday Hunting with a Bow and Arrow or Crossbow

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 WARREN of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe,
FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, JAUCH of Topsham, MASON of Lisbon, ROEDER of
Bangor, WHITE of Waterville, Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

3 **12. Sunday hunting permit revenues.** One-third of all revenues derived from the
4 sale of Sunday hunting permits under section 11164, subsection 3 must be deposited into a
5 special nonlapsing account within the department, and that account must be used to fund
6 youth hunter education and experiential programs.

7 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 511, §1 and affected
8 by §3 and c. 614, §§9 and 10, is further amended to read:

9 **9. Possession of hunting equipment on Sunday.** Possession of hunting equipment
10 in the fields or forests or on the waters or ice in the State on Sunday is prima facie evidence
11 of a violation of section 11205, unless:

12 A. The hunting equipment is carried, securely wrapped, in a complete cover;

13 B. The hunting equipment is fastened in a case; ~~or~~

14 C. The hunting equipment is carried in at least 2 separate pieces in such a manner that
15 it ~~can not~~ cannot be fired, unless the separate pieces are joined together. For the
16 purpose of this subsection, a clip, magazine or cylinder of a firearm may not be
17 considered a piece of the hunting equipment. Bows and arrows must be kept in a case
18 or cover if broadheads or field points are kept attached to the arrows; or

19 D. The hunting equipment is a hand-held bow and arrow or crossbow and the person
20 in possession is hunting pursuant to section 11164.

21 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11164** is enacted to read:

22 **§11164. Sunday hunting permit; penalty**

23 **1. Permit required.** Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person
24 may not hunt on a Sunday without a valid permit under this section. Each day that a person
25 violates this subsection, that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of
26 \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

27 **2. Eligibility; archery license required.** A person who possesses a valid archery
28 hunting license may obtain from the commissioner or an authorized agent a permit to hunt
29 with a hand-held bow and arrow or, if the person holds a valid crossbow permit, a crossbow
30 on a Sunday.

31 **3. Issuance; permit fee.** The commissioner, through the commissioner's authorized
32 agent, shall issue a Sunday hunting permit to an eligible person. The annual fee for each
33 permit issued is \$31, \$10 of which must be deposited into the Land for Maine's Future
34 Fund, \$10 of which must be provided to the department for the benefit of the Bureau of
35 Warden Service, \$10 of which must be provided to the department for the benefit of youth
36 hunter education and experiential programs as provided in section 10206, subsection 12
37 and \$1 of which must be retained by the commissioner's authorized agent.

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

