



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2194

S.P. 933

In Senate, January 29, 2024

**An Act to Clarify When a Wounded Game Animal May Be
Dispatched by an Authorized Licensed Guide**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senators: BLACK of Franklin, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12862**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 90, §5, is amended to read:

3 **§12862. Retrieval of wounded or killed bear, deer or moose ~~after hours~~**

4 Notwithstanding sections 11205, 11206 and 11111, the commissioner may authorize a
5 person licensed to guide hunters under section 12853 whose client during a guided hunt
6 wounds or kills a bear, deer or moose to track and dispatch that animal ~~outside of legal~~
7 ~~hunting hours~~. A licensed guide authorized to track a wounded animal pursuant to this
8 section may use one leashed dog for tracking purposes. The commissioner may place
9 conditions and restrictions on tracking activities conducted pursuant to this section to
10 ensure its proper administration and the humane treatment of a wounded animal.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill expands the ability of a person licensed to guide hunters whose client wounds
13 or kills a bear, deer or moose during a guided hunt to track and dispatch the wounded
14 animal during any hour of the day.