

Date:

(Filing No. H-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 132ND LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 502, L.D. 777, “An Act to Standardize the Muzzle-loading Season Statewide”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Study Lengthening the Muzzle-loading Season for Deer in Certain Wildlife Management Districts'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Study of muzzle-loading season for deer and expanding season in certain wildlife management districts. Resolved: That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall study lengthening the muzzle-loading season for deer beyond the 6-day season currently established in department rule in additional wildlife management districts in the State where winter conditions are less severe.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 1, 2026, the department shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that includes an overview of the study findings pursuant to section 1 and any recommendations to identify additional wildlife management districts where the length of the special muzzle-loading season on deer could be extended. The report must include a map identifying the muzzle-loading season for deer in each wildlife management district in the State and highlight on the map wildlife management districts that are currently permitted by rule to have a longer season than 6 days, wildlife management districts that the department determines could have an extended season and wildlife management districts that the department determines should continue to have a 6-day season. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to study lengthening the 6-day muzzle-loading season on deer in wildlife management districts in additional wildlife management districts in the State where winter conditions are less severe. The amendment directs the department to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 1, 2026 with findings and recommendations and gives the joint standing committee the authority to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)