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Date: (Filing No. H-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 699, L.D. 943, “An Act To Improve Turkey Tagging by Allowing Electronic Tagging”

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

'An Act To Improve Turkey Tagging'

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

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11752, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §181 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

2. Tagging. ~~Prior~~ Except as provided in section 12307, prior to presenting a wild turkey for registration, a person may not possess or leave in the field or forest a wild turkey killed by that person unless the wild turkey has securely attached to it a plainly visible tag that conforms to the requirements established under this section.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12302-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §228 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

1. Requirement. A Except as provided in section 12307, a person who kills a bear, deer, moose or wild turkey shall:

- A. Remain with that animal until it is registered, except as provided in section 12303-A;
- B. Present that animal for registration in that person's name at the first open registration station for that animal on the route taken by that person; and
- C. Leave the registration seal attached to the animal in accordance with section 12301-A until that animal is processed and packaged for consumption.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12303-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §230 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **1. Time limits.** Except as provided in subsection 1-A and in section 12307, a person
2 may not keep any of the following unregistered wild animals at home or any place of
3 storage for more than 18 hours:

- 4 A. Bear;
- 5 B. Deer;
- 6 C. Moose; or
- 7 D. Wild turkey.

8 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §12304-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §232
9 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

10 **1. Prohibition.** Except as provided in subsection 2 and in section 12307, a person
11 must present the following wild animals for registration in their entirety:

- 12 A. Bear;
- 13 B. Deer;
- 14 C. Moose; or
- 15 D. Wild turkey.

16 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §12306, sub-§1**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended
17 by c. 655, Pt. B, §234 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

18 **1. Prohibition.** A Except as provided in section 12307, a person may not possess any
19 of the following animals if that animal has not been legally registered as provided in this
20 chapter, unless that animal is possessed in accordance with chapter 921:

- 21 A. Bear;
- 22 B. Deer;
- 23 C. Moose; or
- 24 D. Wild turkey.

25 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12307** is enacted to read:

26 **§12307. Exception for fall turkey hunting**

27 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a person who kills a wild turkey
28 during any fall open season on hunting wild turkey established by rule by the commissioner
29 under section 11701 is not required to register or attach a tag to that turkey.

30 **Sec. 7. Evaluation of electronic tagging.** The Department of Inland Fisheries
31 and Wildlife shall determine the direct costs of and timeline required for implementing an
32 electronic tagging system for wild turkey. The department shall also evaluate whether and
33 how such a system could be effectively implemented and any related costs and benefits of
34 such a system. The department shall report the department's findings and recommendations
35 to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 3, 2022 and
36 the committee may report out a bill related to turkey tagging to the Second Regular Session
37 or any special session of the 130th Legislature.'

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

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SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment:

1. Exempts turkeys taken during the fall open season on hunting wild turkey from tagging and registration requirements; and
2. Requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to determine the direct costs of and timeline required for implementing an electronic tagging system for wild turkey. The department is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 3, 2022 and the committee is authorized to report out a bill related to turkey tagging to the 130th Legislature.