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Date: (Filing No. S-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 279, L.D. 781, Bill, “An Act To Eliminate Permits for Turkey Hunting and To Expand Turkey Hunting”

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

'An Act To Expand Turkey Hunting Opportunities'

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

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶C, as amended by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §4, is further amended to read:

C. A resident small game hunting license, for a person 16 years of age or older, which permits hunting for all legal species except deer, bear, ~~turkey~~, moose, raccoon and bobcat, is \$14.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3, ¶¶G and K, as amended by PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. OO, §2, are further amended to read:

G. A nonresident small game hunting license, which permits hunting of all legal species except deer, bear, ~~turkey~~, moose, raccoon and bobcat, is \$74.

K. An alien small game hunting license, which permits hunting of all species except deer, bear, ~~turkey~~, moose, raccoon and bobcat, is \$79.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11155, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §11, is amended to read:

1-A. Eligibility; license required. A person who possesses a valid license to hunt big game or small game may obtain a permit to hunt for wild turkey from the commissioner or an authorized agent.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11701, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 387, §3, is amended to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 B. A person to hunt from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. ~~This~~
2 ~~paragraph is repealed August 1, 2016;~~ and

3 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11701, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 2013, c. 387, §3, is amended
4 to read:

5 **2. Fall seasons.** Beginning with the ~~2014~~ 2016 fall open season, the commissioner
6 shall establish by rule ~~a 2 fall open season~~ seasons for hunting wild turkeys. Unless the
7 commissioner determines that sound management principles require otherwise, the rule
8 must establish ~~a 2 fall open season~~ seasons that ~~includes~~ include the month of October
9 and a week in the month of November and allow a person to take up to a total of 2 wild
10 turkeys over both seasons regardless of sex without any additional fee for the taking of a
11 2nd wild turkey.

12 **Sec. 6. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.'

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment replaces the bill, which eliminates wild turkey permit requirements.
15 Current law requires that a person hold a big game license to be eligible to purchase a
16 wild turkey permit. This amendment makes the holder of a small game license also
17 eligible to hold a wild turkey permit. It also directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries
18 and Wildlife to establish a November wild turkey hunting season that is in addition to the
19 current fall wild turkey hunting season in October. The amendment eliminates the bill's
20 provisions regarding registration of wild turkeys. The amendment provides an effective
21 date of January 1, 2016.