

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 299 - L.D. 482

**An Act to Extend the Time for Youth Deer Hunting**

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** this legislation creates a 2-day youth deer hunting period in 2023; and

**Whereas,** the earliest date for the youth deer hunting period is expected to be October 20, 2023; and

**Whereas,** this legislation must take effect in time to prepare for the start of the 2023 deer hunting season; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish 2-day youth deer hunting period.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 11402, subsection 4, paragraph C, for the 2023 deer hunting season only, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall establish a 2-day youth deer hunting period beginning 8 days before the start of the 2023 regular deer hunting season.

**Sec. 2. Examination.** The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall examine the impact of an additional dedicated youth hunting day, as required by section 1, on the deer population including the impact on the antlerless deer population and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's ability to meet its wildlife management goals.

**Sec. 3. Report.** By March 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that includes findings and recommendations of the examination pursuant to section 2, including any recommended legislation, if needed. After receiving the report, the committee may

report out a bill relating to the examination to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.