

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—
H.P. 336 - L.D. 531

An Act to Add Gray Squirrels and Red Squirrels to the Species List for the Open Training Season for Hunting Dogs

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 adds gray squirrels and red squirrels to the species list for the open training season for hunting dogs; and

Whereas, the earliest date of the open season for training hunting dogs in this State is July 1, 2023; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect in time for the start of the hunting dog training 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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12051, sub-§1, ¶A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

A. A person may train dogs on foxes, snowshoe hare, gray squirrels, red squirrels and raccoons from July 1st through the following March 31st, including Sundays.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12051, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2011, c. 253, §22, is further amended to read:

3. Possessing firearm while training dogs. A person may not possess a firearm while training a dog outside of the open training season on foxes, snowshoe hare, gray squirrels, red squirrels and raccoons as set out in subsection 1, paragraph A.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

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