

STATE OF MAINE

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

—  
H.P. 352 - L.D. 547

**An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws as They Pertain to the Training of 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 expands the area in which dogs may be trained for hunting in this State; and

**Whereas,** the season for training hunting dogs begins July 1st, and this legislation needs to take effect by that date in order that residents may take advantage of the expanded training area this year; 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, ¶D** is enacted to read:

D. Notwithstanding paragraph C, until May 1, 2025, in those portions of Washington County and Hancock County that are situated south of Route 9, a resident may train up to 6 dogs at any one time on bear from July 1st to the 4th day preceding the open season on hunting bear except that permission is required to train dogs on land used for wild blueberry production.

This paragraph is repealed May 1, 2025.

**Sec. 2. Report.** The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report any findings and recommendations resulting from the changes in practice under section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by January 15, 2025. The committee may report out a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

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