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Legislative Document

No. 781

S.P. 279

In Senate, March 10, 2015

An Act To Eliminate Permits for Turkey Hunting and To Expand Turkey Hunting

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Cosponsored by Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DUTREMBLE of York, MASON of Androscoggin, President THIBODEAU of Waldo.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11109, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 538, §§21 and 22,
3 is further amended to read:

4 **3. Hunting licenses; combination licenses; fees.** Hunting licenses, combination
5 licenses and fees are as follows.

6 A. A resident junior hunting license, for a person 10 years of age or older and under
7 16 years of age, is \$7. Notwithstanding the permit fees established in subchapter 3, a
8 resident junior hunting license includes all permits, stamps and other permissions
9 needed to hunt at no additional cost. A resident junior hunting license does not
10 exempt the holder of the license from lottery-related application requirements under
11 this Part.

12 B. A resident hunting license, for a person 16 years of age or older, is \$25.

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

16 D. A resident combination hunting and fishing license is \$42.

17 E. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is \$42.

18 E-1. A resident apprenticeship hunter license, which includes a bear hunting permit
19 ~~and a wild turkey hunting permit~~ under ~~sections~~ section 11151 ~~and 11155~~
20 ~~respectively~~, is \$25.

21 F. A nonresident junior hunting license, for a person 10 years of age or older and
22 under 16 years of age, is \$34. A nonresident junior hunting license does not exempt
23 the holder of the license from lottery-related application requirements under this Part.

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

26 H. A nonresident 3-day small game hunting license, valid for 3 consecutive hunting
27 days, which permits hunting of all legal species except deer, bear, ~~turkey~~, moose,
28 raccoon and bobcat for the 72-hour period specified on the license, is \$49.

29 I. A nonresident big game hunting license, which permits hunting of turkey and all
30 legal species subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3, is \$114.

31 J. A nonresident combination hunting and fishing license is \$149.

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

34 L. An alien big game hunting license, which permits hunting of turkey and all legal
35 species subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3, is \$139.

36 M. An alien combination hunting and fishing license is \$190.

1 N. A license to use leashed dogs to track wounded animals, which permits a person
2 to use one or more leashed dogs to track a lawfully wounded deer, moose or bear, is
3 \$27.

4 O. A nonresident small game apprenticeship hunter license, which permits the
5 hunting of all legal species except deer, bear, ~~turkey~~, moose, raccoon and bobcat, is
6 \$74.

7 P. A nonresident big game apprenticeship hunter license, which permits the hunting
8 of all legal species and includes a bear hunting permit ~~and a wild turkey hunting~~
9 ~~permit~~ under ~~sections~~ section 11151 ~~and 11155~~ respectively, is \$114.

10 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11155**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 387, §§1 and 2, is repealed.

11 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11701, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 236, §6, is further
12 amended to read:

13 The commissioner may establish open seasons for hunting wild turkeys, designate
14 areas that are open to the taking of wild turkeys in any part of the State, ~~prescribe the~~
15 ~~form and regulate the number of permits to be issued~~, determine the number and sex of
16 the birds to be harvested, establish bag limits, ~~establish permit eligibility requirements~~,
17 establish legal hunting times, specify the types of weapons to be used during any open
18 wild turkey hunting season and make any other rules that the commissioner considers
19 necessary for the protection of the wild turkey resource. The rules must permit the use of
20 a crossbow during the spring open wild turkey hunting season.

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

23 A. A person to take up to 2 wild turkeys ~~without any additional fee for the taking of~~
24 ~~the 2nd wild turkey~~;

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

27 **2. Fall season.** Beginning with the 2014 fall open season, the commissioner shall
28 establish by rule a fall open season for hunting wild turkeys. Unless the commissioner
29 determines that sound management principles require otherwise, the rule must establish a
30 fall open season that includes the month of October and allow a person to take up to 2
31 wild turkeys regardless of sex ~~without any additional fee for the taking of a 2nd wild~~
32 ~~turkey~~.

33 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12301-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §226
34 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

35 **1. Registration stations established.** The commissioner shall adopt rules governing
36 the establishment and closure of bear, deer, moose and wild turkey registration stations
37 for the purpose of registering harvested bear, deer, moose and wild turkey and to allow
38 for the collection of biological and hunting data. A registration station that registers deer
39 must also register wild turkey. The commissioner shall also adopt rules providing for the
40 registration of wild turkey by electronic or telephonic means. Rules adopted pursuant to

1 this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
2 2-A.

3 **Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §12302-A, sub-§1, ¶¶B and C**, as enacted by PL 2003, c.
4 655, Pt. B, §228 and affected by §422, are amended to read:

5 B. Present that animal for registration in that person's name at the first open
6 registration station for that animal on the route taken by that person, except that wild
7 turkey may be registered electronically or telephonically in accordance with rules
8 adopted by the commissioner under section 12301-A; and

9 C. Leave the registration seal attached to the animal in accordance with section
10 12301-A until that animal is processed and packaged for consumption or, in the case
11 of a wild turkey electronically or telephonically registered in accordance with rules
12 adopted by the commissioner under section 12301-A, comply with the requirements
13 of those rules.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill expands turkey hunting opportunities by:

- 16 1. Eliminating the turkey permit requirements;
- 17 2. Allowing the hunting of turkey with a big game or small game hunting license;
- 18 3. Requiring deer registration stations to also register turkeys; and
- 19 4. Providing for electronic or telephonic registration of turkeys.