



**David Harold McCrea**

P.O. Box 513

Fort Fairfield, ME 04742

(207) 227-4903

[David.McCrea@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:David.McCrea@legislature.maine.gov)

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1400  
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

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***Representative David McCrea Introducing  
LD 1033, An Act To Allow Sunday Hunting on Private Property with the Written  
Permission of the Landowner  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife***

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Landry and most honorable member of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I am Representative David McCrea and I live in Fort Fairfield and represent the nine communities of House District 148. I have come to your committee as a co-sponsor of **LD 1033, An Act To Allow Sunday Hunting on Private Property with the Written Permission of the Landowner.**

While doing my research for this bill, I discovered that the state of Utah issued the first hunting license (combined hunting and fishing) for the sum of \$1.00 in 1901. Interestingly enough, I also found that as part of that legislation, “all female persons, residents of Utah, may take game animals under the provision of the title without procuring a license.” While I did not uncover when Maine first issued its first hunting license, I did find evidence that Maine had begun exploring the issue as early as 1899.

Currently, of the 50 states, only 11 have any restrictions whatsoever on Sunday hunting. These 11 states and their regulations surrounding Sunday hunting are as follows:

- Delaware: Sunday hunting of red fox allowed and full hunting on commercial preserves
- Maryland: Sunday hunting of deer and turkey allowed in some counties on private land
- Massachusetts: Sunday hunting allowed on regulated hunting grounds or in defense of one’s property
- New Jersey: Sunday hunting of pheasant and quail or partridge allowed
- North Carolina: Sunday hunting of all game on military reservations or in defense of a person’s land
- South Carolina: Sunday hunting of small game allowed but not on Wildlife Management Area Lands
- Pennsylvania : Sunday hunting of small game is allowed
- Virginia: Sunday hunting of waterfowl allowed, subject to restrictions imposed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

District 148 Caswell, Easton, Fort Fairfield, Hamlin, Limestone, Presque Isle (part), Stockholm, and Cyr Plantation, plus the unorganized territory of Connor Township

- West Virginia: Sunday hunting allowed in some counties on private land with written permission

Currently, this leaves the state of **Maine** as the **only** state that does not allow any hunting in any form on Sundays.

As I researched this issue, I found that most of the states mentioned earlier have been moving toward less restrictive Sunday hunting laws over the recent years. Perhaps, now may well be the time for Maine to consider some limited move in this direction.

My father grew up as a farm-boy in Aroostook County and as such, he was an avid outdoorsman. He absolutely loved fishing and hunting. While I was growing up, he was the foreman at the heating plant at Loring Air Force Base in Limestone and worked six days a week, more often than not, leaving little if any time for hunting. I know that he and the countless others like him would have greatly appreciated being able to hunt even birds on Sundays. I firmly feel that there are many, many men and women like my dad, whose fall recreational lives would be dramatically improved by allowing them opportunities to hunt birds on Sundays.

We in the Legislature profess to be very supportive of improving Maine's rural economy. In remote, rural areas of Maine, the local economy would be very positively improved should **LD 1033** be enacted. Many local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, convenience stores and hunting supply establishments, just to name a few, would become more prosperous as a direct result. Much of their business comes from those sportsmen and women "from away" bringing in more money to the rural local economies. Some businesses may expand their hours or even find that staying open on Sunday would become profitable, thereby increasing their bottom line and perhaps, hiring more employees.

Additionally, sporting camps, which are by their very nature, established in the more rural parts of the state, would see increased business if their out-of-state clientele were to stay over the extra day. Nearly all of these businesses cater to out-of-state hunters. It's hard to say how many hunters currently choose to hunt in nearby New Hampshire or Vermont simply because they can hunt every day of the week. I suspect that some hunters likely stop short of coming to Maine and spend their dollars in our neighboring states to the south.

If enacted, **LD 1033** would permit the landowner as well as those who have been given written permission to hunt on their land on Sundays.

As you can see, **LD 1033** offers an extremely limited opportunity for hunters while leaving the accessibility to the very most "**local control**", that being the owner of the land.

I urge your support of this bill, thank you for your time and consideration and would be happy to answer any questions that you may have of me.