

CHAPTER 919

REGISTRATION AND TRANSPORT OF HARVESTED ANIMALS

SUBCHAPTER 1

REGISTRATION

§12301. Registration of harvested animals

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B225 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12301-A. Registration of harvested animals

1. Registration stations established. The commissioner shall adopt rules governing the establishment and closure of bear, deer, moose and wild turkey registration stations for the purpose of registering harvested bear, deer, moose and wild turkey and to allow for the collection of biological and hunting data. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §226 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Agents designated. An agent designated by the commissioner must be in charge of each bear, deer, moose or wild turkey registration station.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §226 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Agent duties. Registration agents shall:

A. Register every bear, deer, moose or wild turkey legally presented for registration; [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §226 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. Attach a seal to each bear, deer, moose or wild turkey in the manner directed and with the materials furnished by the commissioner; [PL 2013, c. 387, §4 (AMD).]

C. Collect \$5 and retain \$2 for each seal from the person registering a bear, deer or moose. The remaining \$3 must be returned to the department by the agent pursuant to section 10801, subsection 3; and [PL 2013, c. 387, §5 (AMD).]

D. Collect and retain \$2 for each wild turkey registered. [PL 2013, c. 387, §6 (NEW).]

[PL 2013, c. 387, §§4-6 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B226 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. OO, §10 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 660, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 387, §§4-6 (AMD).

§12301-B. Electronic registration of turkey

Beginning in 2023, the department shall allow electronic registration of turkey. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules may include exceptions to or electronic means of compliance with any of the requirements of this chapter for a person who registers a turkey in accordance with the rules. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2021, c. 704, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 704, §1 (NEW).

§12302. Timely registration of bear, deer, moose or wild turkey**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B227 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12302-A. Timely registration of bear, deer, moose or wild turkey

1. Requirement. Except as provided in section 12307 or rules adopted under section 12301-B, a person who kills a bear, deer, moose or wild turkey shall:

A. Remain with that animal until it is registered, except as provided in section 12303-A; [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §228 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. Present that animal for registration in that person's name at the first open registration station for that animal on the route taken by that person; and [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §228 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

C. Leave the registration seal attached to the animal in accordance with section 12301-A until that animal is processed and packaged for consumption. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §228 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2021, c. 704, §2 (AMD).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §228 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B228 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 121, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 704, §2 (AMD).

§12303. Time limits for registering bear, deer, moose or wild turkey**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B229 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12303-A. Time limits for registering bear, deer, moose or wild turkey

1. Time limits. Except as provided in subsection 1-A and in section 12307 or in rules adopted under section 12301-B, a person may not keep any of the following unregistered wild animals for more than 18 hours:

A. Bear; [PL 2021, c. 704, §3 (RPR).]

B. Deer; [PL 2021, c. 704, §3 (RPR).]

C. Moose; or [PL 2021, c. 704, §3 (RPR).]

D. Wild turkey. [PL 2021, c. 704, §3 (RPR).]

[PL 2021, c. 704, §3 (RPR).]

1-A. Exceptions. The following are exceptions to the time limitation for registering harvested wild animals established in subsection 1:

A. A person may keep a harvested animal in an official registration station for that animal or at the office of a game warden for more than 18 hours; [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §230 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person may leave an unregistered animal harvested by that person in the woods if that person notifies a game warden within 18 hours as to the location of that animal and the circumstances necessitating leaving that animal in the woods; [PL 2017, c. 226, §1 (AMD).]

C. A person on a hunting trip in an unorganized township and staying at a temporary place of lodging may keep an unregistered harvested animal at the temporary place of lodging for no more than 7 days or until that person leaves the woods, whichever comes first; and [PL 2017, c. 226, §1 (AMD).]

D. A person may keep an unregistered animal harvested by that person if that person notifies a game warden within 18 hours as to the location of that animal and the circumstances preventing the person from registering the animal in accordance with subsection 1. [PL 2017, c. 226, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 226, §§1, 2 (AMD).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §230 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B230 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 226, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 54, §11 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 121, §3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 704, §3 (AMD).

§12304. Condition of animal presented for registration

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B231 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12304-A. Condition of animal presented for registration

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B232 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 54, §12 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 121, §4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 704, §4 (RP).

§12304-B. Condition of animal presented for registration

1. Wild turkey. Except as provided in rules adopted under section 12301-B, a person shall present a wild turkey in its entirety for registration, except that the viscera may be removed in a manner that permits determination of the sex of the animal.

[PL 2021, c. 704, §5 (AMD).]

2. Bear, deer and moose. A person must present a bear, deer or moose for registration as follows.

A. A person shall present a bear, deer or moose in its entirety, including, but not limited to, all edible meat and the head for registration, except that the viscera, hide, lower legs and rib cage, including the ribs, spine and pelvis, are not required to be presented for registration. [PL 2021, c. 54, §13 (NEW).]

B. A bear, deer or moose may be dismembered for ease of transportation. [PL 2021, c. 54, §13 (NEW).]

C. A person shall present evidence of the sex of a bear, deer or moose for registration. [PL 2021, c. 54, §13 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 54, §13 (NEW).]

3. Biological samples. The commissioner may require hunters to submit biological samples from wild turkey, bear, deer or moose at the time of registration. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.
[PL 2021, c. 54, §13 (NEW).]

4. Disposal of parts not presented for registration. A person may not dispose of the parts of a bear, deer or moose not presented for registration where they are visible to a person traveling on a public or private way.
[PL 2021, c. 54, §13 (NEW).]

5. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2021, c. 54, §13 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 54, §13 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 704, §5 (AMD).

§12305. False registration of bear, deer, moose or wild turkey

1. Prohibition. A person may not present for registration or allow to be registered in that person's name any of the following animals that that person did not lawfully kill:

A. Bear; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Deer; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. Moose; or [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

D. Wild turkey. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §233 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B233 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12306. Possessing unregistered bear, deer, moose or wild turkey

1. Prohibition. Except as provided in section 12307, a person may not possess any of the following animals if that animal has not been legally registered as provided in this chapter or rules adopted under section 12301-B, unless that animal is possessed in accordance with chapter 921:

A. Bear; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Deer; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. Moose; or [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

D. Wild turkey. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
[PL 2021, c. 704, §6 (AMD).]

2. Penalties.
[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §235 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §236 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B234-236 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 121, §5 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 704, §6 (AMD).

§12307. Exception for fall turkey hunting

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a person who kills a wild turkey during any fall open season on hunting wild turkey in 2022 established by rule by the commissioner under section 11701 is not required to register or attach a tag to that turkey. [PL 2021, c. 704, §7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 121, §6 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 704, §7 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

TRANSPORTATION

§12351. Transportation

1. Prohibition. A person may not transport a harvested wild animal or wild bird unless that animal is lawfully possessed by that person.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §237 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

1-A. Transportation prior to registration. Prior to registration, a person may not transport a harvested bear, deer, moose or wild turkey unless that animal is open to view. For purposes of this section, "open to view" means the animal is not concealed and can be readily observed in whole or in part from outside of the vehicle or trailer being used to transport the animal.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §237 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 or 1-A commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §237 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 or 1-A 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.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §237 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §237 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B237 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12352. Transportation by nonresidents

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B238 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12353. Method of transportation

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B238 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12354. Common carriers**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B238 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12355. Unlawful transportation of wild animal or wild bird**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B238 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12356. Unlawful transport of bear, deer, moose, wild turkey, wild hare or wild rabbit**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B238 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.