

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

‘**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1847, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

**4. Land open to hunting.** The bureau and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall communicate and coordinate land management activities in a manner that ensures that the total number of acres of land open to hunting on public reserved lands and lands owned and managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife does not fall below the acreage open to hunting on January 1, 2008. These acres are subject to local ordinances and state laws and rules pertaining to hunting.

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §1853, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 592, §§6 and 7, is further amended to read:

**1. Annual report.** The bureau shall submit a written report on or before March 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public reserved lands. The report must include the following information:

- A. A complete account of the income and expenditures pertaining to public reserved lands during the preceding calendar year;
- B. A summary of the bureau's management activities during the preceding calendar year regarding timber, recreation, wildlife and other subjects as appropriate;
- C. A list of any gates or other constructed barriers to public access by motor vehicle to any public reserved lands and their locations, when they block the sole or primary motor vehicle access, whether those barriers are located on public or private land and whether or not they are owned by the State or by private parties;
- D. A summary of any campsite or recreation facility fees charged under section 1846, subsection 5;
- E. A description of the proposed budget, including allocations for the bureau's dedicated funds and any revenues of the bureau from permits, leases, fees and sales for the following fiscal year beginning on July 1st; and
- F. The status of ecological reserves including the acreage of reserved public land designated as ecological reserves, results of monitoring, scientific research and other activities related to the bureau's ecological reserves; and
- G. The amount of public reserved lands open for hunting and any change from the previous year in the total acreage of public reserved lands open for hunting. If there has been a decrease in acreage on which hunting is allowed, the report must provide the locations of the acres closed to hunting during the report year and the location of the corresponding increase in acres open to hunting and managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over proposed public reserved lands shall review the report and submit a written recommendation regarding the bureau's proposed budget to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs on or before March 15th of each year. The bureau shall submit the information required under paragraph G to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over wildlife management matters on or before March 1st of each year.

### **SUMMARY**

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It replaces the bill. It requires the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to coordinate their respective management of the public reserved lands and land owned by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to ensure that there is no net loss of acreage open to hunting on these lands. It requires the Bureau of Parks and Lands to present information on changes in acres open to hunting in its annual report on the public reserved lands and to present this information to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over wildlife management matters as well as the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public lands.

### **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**