An Act to Provide a Free Antlerless Deer Permit to Certain Landowners Who Allow the Public to Hunt on Their Property

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

Presented by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11152, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2021, c. 599, §11, is further amended to read:

4. Landowner consideration. An antlerless deer permit lottery adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section may include a provision giving special consideration to landowners who keep their lands open to hunting by the public. As part of the special consideration to those landowners, the commissioner shall provide at least 25% of the available at no cost antlerless deer permits in a wildlife management district to any eligible landowner that applies for an antlerless deer permit in that district. An eligible landowner is an individual who owns at least 20 acres of contiguous land and who does not post the landowner's land under Title 17-A, section 402. Any 2 or more areas of land owned by the same person that are open for hunting and that would be contiguous except for being divided by one or more roads are considered contiguous for the purposes of determining landowner eligibility for special consideration under this subsection.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the law governing the landowner consideration for the antlerless deer permit lottery to provide an antlerless deer permit at no cost for all eligible landowners who apply for a permit and keep their lands open to hunting by the public. This bill also defines an eligible landowner as a landowner who owns at least 20 acres of contiguous land and does not post the landowner's land to prohibit hunting by others.