



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 188

H.P. 151

House of Representatives, January 17, 2019

An Act To Provide for an Expanded Muzzle-loading-only Deer Hunting Season

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TUELL of East Machias.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GRIFFIN of Levant,
JAVNER of Chester, SKOLFIELD of Weld, Senator: ROSEN of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11404, sub-§1-A**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 280, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1-A. Muzzle-loading-only open season on deer.** There is a special muzzle-loading
5 open season on deer immediately following the regular deer hunting season established
6 under section 11401, subsection 1, paragraph A for the purpose of hunting deer only with:

7 A. A muzzleloader as defined in section 10001, subsection 42-A that is 40 caliber or
8 greater and capable of firing only a single charge;

9 B. A muzzle-loading shotgun as defined in section 10001, subsection 42-B; or

10 C. A traditional muzzleloader as defined in section 10001, subsection 62-A that uses
11 projectiles that are 40 caliber or greater or that uses buckshot.

12 The commissioner may terminate this open season at any time in an area if, in the
13 commissioner's opinion, an immediate emergency action is necessary due to adverse
14 weather conditions or severe hunting pressure. The length of the special muzzle-loading
15 season is as follows.

16 ~~The commissioner shall establish by rule the length of the special muzzle-loading season.~~
17 ~~The commissioner may establish seasons of different lengths in different regions of the~~
18 ~~State. The season may extend~~ extends ~~for no more than~~ 12 hunting days in ~~any part~~ all
19 parts of the State.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill requires that muzzle-loading season on deer extends for 12 hunting days
22 immediately following the regular deer hunting season instead of being determined by the
23 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.