An Act To Allow Sunday Hunting on Private Property with the Written Permission of the Landowner

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

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative STETKIS of Canaan and Senators: BLACK of Franklin, President JACKSON of Aroostook, POULIOT of Kennebec, Representatives: MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, THERIAULT of China, WARREN of Scarborough.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

B. The hunting equipment is fastened in a case; or

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

C. The hunting equipment is carried in at least 2 separate pieces in such a manner that it can not be fired, unless the separate pieces are joined together. For the purpose of this subsection, a clip, magazine or cylinder of a firearm may not be considered a piece of the hunting equipment. Bows and arrows must be kept in a case or cover if broadheads or field points are kept attached to the arrows; or

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10501, sub-§9, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. The person is hunting on the person's own land or has the written consent of the landowner to hunt on Sunday on that landowner's property, as provided in section 11205, subsection 1-A.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11205, as amended by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §137 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

§11205. Hunting on Sunday

1. Prohibition. A person may not:
   A. Hunt wild animals or wild birds on Sunday, except as provided in subsection 1-A; or
   B. Possess any wild animal or wild bird taken in violation of paragraph A except as otherwise provided in this Part.

1-A. Hunting allowed on Sunday. A landowner or a person with written consent of that landowner may hunt wild animals or wild birds on that landowner's land on Sunday subject to all other requirements, laws and rules governing that hunting. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

2. Penalties. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime.

SUMMARY

This bill allows landowners to hunt wild animals and wild birds on their private property on Sundays. Landowners can also give written permission to other individuals to hunt on the landowners' private property on Sundays. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is directed to establish rules to implement these provisions.