

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 title and inserting the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is vital to the management of game species that adequate opportunity exist for hunters to properly train their hunting dogs; and

Whereas, hunting dog training season begins on July 1, 2009; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12051, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Open training season 2009-2010. Notwithstanding subsection 1, beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010, unless otherwise provided in this Part, a person may not:

A. Engage in activities authorized under this subsection unless that person possesses a valid hunting license issued under section 11109; and

B. Train dogs on wild birds and wild animals except as specified in this paragraph.

(1) A person may train dogs on foxes, rabbits and raccoons from July 1st through the following March 31st, including Sundays.

(2) A person may train sporting dogs on wild birds at any time, including Sundays.

(3) A resident may train up to 6 dogs at any one time on bear from July 1st to the first day of the open season on hunting bear, except in those portions of Washington County and Hancock County that are situated south of Route 9.

A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime.

This subsection is repealed on June 30, 2010.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect July 1, 2009.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill, which was a concept draft, and adds an emergency clause and emergency preamble. This amendment requires for a one-year period a person to possess a valid hunting license when training hunting dogs, extends the training season for dogs on bears by one month and changes the current limit on the number of dogs that can be trained on bear at one time from 4 dogs to 6 dogs. Those changes apply from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.