

CHAPTER 915

HUNTING: SEASONS, REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL HUNTING SEASON PROVISIONS

§10951. Closed season

1. General; prohibition. Except as otherwise provided in this Part and except as the commissioner may establish by rule not inconsistent with this Part, there is a perpetually closed season on hunting any wild animal or wild bird.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§10952. Open seasons for hunting with archery equipment

1. Hunting with archery equipment. Except as provided in section 11404, a person may hunt any wild bird or wild animal with archery equipment during any open season on that bird or animal if the person holds a valid archery hunting license.

[PL 2023, c. 239, §12 (AMD).]

2. Hunting with a crossbow; 70 years of age or older.

[PL 2013, c. 236, §2 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 61, §1 (RPR). PL 2013, c. 236, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §7 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 637, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §12 (AMD).

§10953. Open seasons for hunting with crossbow

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 419, §2 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 419, §12 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 61, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 236, §3 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §§14-16 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 42, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §§8, 9 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 85, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 164, §6 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 239, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. A, §20 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 98, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 325, §3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 637, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 599, §§3-7 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §13 (RP).

§10954. Start of open season on upland game

(CONTAINS TEXT WITH VARYING EFFECTIVE DATES)

(WHOLE SECTION TEXT EFFECTIVE UNTIL 1/01/25)

The open season on upland game must begin on the last Saturday in September. The commissioner, by rule, shall determine the length of the open season on upland game. [PL 2019, c. 42, §1 (NEW).]

As used in this section, "upland game" means snowshoe hare, gray squirrel, ruffed grouse and bobwhite quail. [PL 2019, c. 42, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 42, §1 (NEW).

§10954. Open season on upland game

(CONTAINS TEXT WITH VARYING EFFECTIVE DATES)

(WHOLE SECTION TEXT EFFECTIVE 1/01/25)

The open season on upland game must include the last Saturday in September. The commissioner, by rule, shall determine the length of the open season on upland game. [PL 2023, c. 530, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 530, §2 (AFF).]

As used in this section, "upland game" means snowshoe hare, gray squirrel, ruffed grouse and bobwhite quail. [PL 2019, c. 42, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 42, §1 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 530, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 530, §2 (AFF).

SUBCHAPTER 2**HUNTING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND FEES****§11101. Application and issuance**

A resident or nonresident may apply for and the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent may issue a written license to hunt wild animals and wild birds. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§11102. Age limitation for obtaining hunting license

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B111 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 136, §2 (RP). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF).

§11103. Prohibition for convicted felons, domestic violence offenders and certain nonviolent juvenile offenders

A person who is prohibited from possessing a firearm under Title 15, section 393, subsection 1, 1-A or 1-B is ineligible to obtain or possess any license or permit issued by the department that authorizes a person to hunt with a firearm unless that person possesses a valid permit in accordance with Title 15, section 393, subsection 2. [PL 2021, c. 54, §6 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B112 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 54, §6 (AMD).

§11104. Mental deficiency or illness; eligibility

A person who is a mentally ill person, as defined in Title 34-B, section 3801, or who has a mental deficiency or mental illness, as those terms are defined in Title 34-B, section 9002, is ineligible to

obtain a hunting license. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §112 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B112 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11105. Safety course

1. Hunter safety course requirements. Except as provided in subsection 2, a person who applies for a Maine license to hunt with firearms other than a junior license or an apprentice hunter license issued under section 11108-B must submit proof of having successfully completed a hunter safety course as provided in section 10108 or an equivalent hunter safety course or satisfactory evidence of having previously held a valid adult license to hunt with firearms in this State or any other state, province or country in any year beginning with 1976.

When proof of competency can not otherwise be provided, the applicant may substitute a signed affidavit that the applicant has previously held the required adult hunting license or that the applicant has successfully completed the required hunter safety course.

[PL 2013, c. 538, §17 (AMD).]

2. Hunter safety course exemption for certain members of armed forces domiciled in State.

A member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty who is permanently stationed outside of the United States and home on leave is exempt from hunter safety course requirements under subsection 1 if that member shows proof at the time of application for the license that that member's home state of record, as recorded in that person's military service records, is Maine. A person who no longer meets the conditions for an exemption under this subsection must satisfy the requirements of subsection 1.

[PL 2013, c. 139, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 139, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 408, §9 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §17 (AMD).

§11106. Eligibility for archery hunting license

1. Age requirement. A person is eligible to obtain an archery hunting license as provided in this section.

A. A resident or nonresident 16 years of age or older who has satisfied the requirements of subsection 2 or holds an apprenticeship hunter license, or who is exempt under subsection 3, may obtain an archery hunting license to hunt with archery equipment in accordance with section 10952 from the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent. [PL 2023, c. 239, §14 (AMD).]

B. A resident or nonresident under 16 years of age may hunt with archery equipment if that person holds a valid junior hunting license. [PL 2023, c. 239, §14 (AMD).]

Beginning January 1, 2016, for those persons who obtain a junior hunting license and turn 16 years of age during the same calendar year, the archery hunting license is included even after the person has turned 16 years of age as long as that person is hunting on that person's valid junior hunting license and not longer than the remainder of the calendar year for which the license is issued.

[PL 2023, c. 239, §14 (AMD).]

2. Archery hunter education requirements. Except as provided in paragraph A and subsection 3, a person who applies for an archery hunting license other than a junior hunting license or an apprenticeship hunter license must submit proof of having successfully completed an archery hunter education course as described in section 10108 or an equivalent archery hunter education course or

satisfactory evidence of having previously held a valid adult archery hunting license issued specifically for the purpose of hunting with bow and arrow in this State or any other state, province or country in any year after 1979 or satisfactory evidence of previously holding a crossbow permit issued in this State as of December 31, 2023.

When proof or evidence cannot be otherwise provided, the applicant may substitute a signed affidavit that the applicant has previously held the required adult archery hunting license or has successfully completed the required archery hunter education course.

A. A person who is an enrolled member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or the Mi'kmaq Nation who presents certification from the respective reservation governor or the Mi'kmaq Nation Tribal Council stating that the person is an enrolled member of a federally recognized nation, band or tribe listed in this paragraph is exempt from the requirements of this subsection. [PL 2023, c. 239, §15 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 239, §15 (AMD).]

3. Archery hunter education course exemption for members of armed forces domiciled in State. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty who is permanently stationed outside of the United States and home on leave is exempt from archery hunter education course requirements under subsection 2 if that member shows proof at the time of application for the license that that member's home state of record, as recorded in that person's military service records, is Maine. A person who no longer meets the conditions for an exemption under this subsection must satisfy the requirements of subsection 2.

[PL 2013, c. 139, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 397, §E4 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 203, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 139, §2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 185, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 408, §10 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §12 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. D, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §10 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §§14, 15 (AMD).

§11106-A. Eligibility for crossbow hunting license

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 419, §3 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 419, §12 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 203, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 139, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 185, §2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 408, §11 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §13 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §4 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §1 (RP).

§11107. Eligibility for hunting with muzzle-loader

This section governs eligibility for hunting with a muzzle-loader. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

1. Hunting license. A person 16 years of age or older at the beginning of the special season established under section 11404, subsection 1-A may obtain a muzzle-loading permit from the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent if the person possesses a valid license to hunt with firearms.

[PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §2 (AMD).]

2. Junior license.

[PL 2017, c. 164, §7 (RP).]

3. Apprenticeship hunter license. A holder of an apprenticeship hunter license may obtain a muzzle-loading permit from the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent.

[PL 2007, c. 203, §5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 397, §E5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 203, §5 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §14 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §5 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 164, §7 (AMD).

§11108. Hunting without license

1. On certain land. Notwithstanding section 11109, subsection 1 as it applies to this subchapter, and subject to all other applicable laws and rules, a resident and a member of the resident's immediate family, as long as the hunter's license to hunt is not under suspension or revocation, may hunt without a license, including, but not limited to, an archery hunting license and a muzzle-loading permit, on a single plot of land:

A. To which they are legally entitled to possession; [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §6 (RPR).]

B. On which they are actually domiciled; [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §6 (RPR).]

C. That is used exclusively for agricultural purposes; and [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §6 (RPR).]

D. That is in excess of 10 acres. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §6 (RPR).]

[PL 2023, c. 239, §16 (AMD).]

2. Junior hunters.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §113 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Allowing junior hunter to hunt without adult supervision.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §113 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

4. Expiration of junior hunting license.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §113 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

5. Hunting assistance. A person may assist in a hunt without a license or permit for that activity as long as that person does not carry hunting equipment or engage in driving deer as described in section 11453.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §113 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B113 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 419, §4 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 419, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 136, §6 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §11 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §6 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §16 (AMD).

§11108-A. Junior hunting license restrictions

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B114 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 69, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §18 (RP).

§11108-B. Apprentice hunter license restrictions

1. Apprentice supervisor required. A holder of an apprentice hunter license may not hunt other than in the presence of an apprentice supervisor.

A. The following penalties apply to violations of this subsection.

(1) A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged.

(2) A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2007, c. 203, §6 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 639, §2 (AMD).]

1-A. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. [PL 2019, c. 324, §1 (RP).]

A-1. "Apprentice supervisor" means a person who is 18 years of age or older and holds a valid adult hunting license under this subchapter. [PL 2019, c. 639, §3 (NEW).]

B. "In the presence of" means in visual and voice contact without the use of visual or audio enhancement devices, including but not limited to binoculars and citizen band radios. [PL 2013, c. 538, §19 (NEW).]

C. [PL 2019, c. 639, §4 (RP).]

[PL 2019, c. 639, §§3, 4 (AMD).]

2. Apprentice supervisor responsibility. An apprentice supervisor must have held a valid hunting license for the prior 3 consecutive years to be qualified to supervise a holder of an apprentice hunter license. An apprentice supervisor shall ensure that the holder of an apprentice hunter license follows safe and ethical hunting protocol and adheres to the laws under this Part. An apprentice supervisor may not intentionally permit a person hunting under an apprentice hunter license with that apprentice supervisor to violate subsection 1.

A. The following penalties apply to violations of this subsection.

(1) A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$500 must be adjudged.

(2) A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2007, c. 203, §6 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 639, §5 (AMD).]

3. Eligibility. A resident or nonresident 16 years of age or older who has never held a valid adult hunting license in this State, or any other state, province or country, is eligible to obtain an apprentice hunter license. Notwithstanding section 11105, a person is eligible to obtain an apprentice hunter license without having successfully completed a hunter safety course. A person may not obtain an apprentice hunter license more than 5 times. A person selected to receive a moose permit may not then purchase an apprentice hunter license to meet the licensing requirements for that permit.

[PL 2015, c. 136, §7 (AMD); PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF).]

4. Expiration of apprentice hunter license. An apprentice hunter license is valid for up to 12 calendar months and expires on December 31st.

[PL 2013, c. 538, §19 (AMD).]

5. Definition.

[PL 2013, c. 538, §19 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 203, §6 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 340, §13 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §19 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §7 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 301, §12 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 324, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 639, §§2-5 (AMD).

§11108-C. Eligibility and restrictions for a junior hunting license

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Junior hunter supervisor" means:

(1) The parent or guardian of the junior hunter who holds or has held a valid Maine hunting license or successfully completed a hunter safety course that meets the requirements of section 11105; or

(2) A person 18 years of age or older who:

(a) Is approved by the parent or guardian of the junior hunter; and

(b) Holds or has held a valid Maine hunting license or successfully completed a hunter safety course that meets the requirements of section 11105. [PL 2019, c. 639, §6 (AMD).]

B. "In the presence of" means in visual and voice contact without the use of visual or audio enhancement devices, including but not limited to binoculars and citizen band radios. [PL 2013, c. 538, §20 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 639, §6 (AMD).]

2. Junior hunter eligibility. A resident or nonresident who is under 16 years of age may obtain a junior hunting license, which allows that person to hunt subject to the conditions set out in this section. [PL 2019, c. 639, §6 (AMD).]

3. Junior hunter supervisor required. A hunter who is at least 10 years of age and under 16 years of age may not hunt unless that person holds a junior hunting license and is in the presence of and under the effective control of a junior hunter supervisor. A hunter who is under 10 years of age may not hunt unless that person holds a junior hunting license and is in the presence of and under the effective control of a junior hunter supervisor who remains at all times within 20 feet of that hunter. [PL 2019, c. 639, §6 (AMD).]

4. Supervision of junior hunters 16 years of age. A hunter 16 years of age who obtained a junior hunting license before that person reached 16 years of age may not hunt with that license unless the person is in the presence of and under the effective control of a junior hunter supervisor or the person has successfully completed a hunter safety course established under section 10108 specific to the method of hunting authorized by the license. The following penalties apply to a violation of this subsection:

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged; and [PL 2013, c. 538, §20 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates paragraph A after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2013, c. 538, §20 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 639, §6 (AMD).]

5. Expiration of junior hunting license issued to person 15 years of age. A junior hunting license issued to a person who is 15 years of age is valid through the calendar year for which the license is issued. Beginning January 1, 2016, for those persons who obtain a junior hunting license and turn 16

years of age during the same calendar year, a pheasant hunting permit, an archery hunting license and a migratory waterfowl permit are included even after the person has turned 16 years of age as long as that person is hunting on that person's valid junior hunting license and not longer than the remainder of the calendar year for which the license is issued. In addition to the requirements of subsection 4, all other permit requirements applicable to a person who is 16 years of age or older apply to a person who continues to hunt with a junior hunting license under this subsection after reaching that person's 16th birthday.

[PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. D, §2 (AMD).]

6. Penalties for supervisors of junior hunters. A person who is the junior hunter supervisor of a holder of a valid junior hunting license when that junior hunter violates any provision of this Part pertaining to hunting:

A. Commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged; and [PL 2013, c. 538, §20 (NEW).]

B. After having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period, commits a Class E crime. [PL 2013, c. 538, §20 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 639, §6 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 538, §20 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 136, §8 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. D, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 639, §6 (AMD).

§11109. Licenses and fees

1. License required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not engage in an activity for which a license may be issued under this section unless that person has a valid license issued under this section. An electronic license or permit fulfills the requirement under this subsection that a person must have a physical paper license or permit if the electronic license or permit can be displayed upon request to a game warden or other law enforcement officer, an employee of the department, a registered Maine guide or the owner of the land on which the licensed activity is taking place. Except as otherwise provided in this section, each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which the sentencing alternative may include only the penalties provided in Title 17-A, section 1704, subsection 5 and Title 17-A, section 1705, subsection 5.

[PL 2023, c. 431, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

2. Hunting licenses; agent's fee. The commissioner may appoint clerks or other agents to issue licenses and permits under this Part. Clerks or other agents appointed by the commissioner to issue licenses and permits shall charge a fee of \$2 for each hunting license issued. The commissioner shall charge a fee of \$1 for each hunting license issued by department employees.

[PL 2017, c. 427, §5 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

3. Hunting licenses; combination licenses; fees. Hunting licenses, combination licenses and fees are as follows.

A. A resident junior hunting license, for a person under 16 years of age, is \$8 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3. Notwithstanding the permit fees established in subchapter 3, a resident junior hunting license includes all permits, stamps and other permissions needed to hunt at no additional cost. A license holder under this paragraph who qualifies to hunt during the special season on deer under section 11153 and who meets the eligibility requirements of section 11106 must have included in that person's license one antlerless deer permit and one either-sex permit. A resident junior hunting license does not exempt the holder of the license from lottery-related application requirements under this Part. A resident under 16 years of age who hunts without a resident junior hunting license commits a civil violation. [PL 2023, c. 431, §2 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

- B. A resident hunting license, for a person 16 years of age or older, is \$26 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- C. A resident small game hunting license, for a person 16 years of age or older, which permits hunting for all legal species except deer, bear, moose, raccoon and bobcat, is \$15. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- D. A resident combination hunting and fishing license is \$43 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- E. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is \$43 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- E-1. A resident apprenticeship hunter license, which includes a bear hunting permit and a wild turkey hunting permit under sections 11151 and 11155, respectively, is \$26 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- F. A nonresident junior hunting license, for a person under 16 years of age, is \$35 and permits hunting of all legal species, subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3. Notwithstanding the permit fees established in subchapter 3, a nonresident junior hunting license includes all permits, stamps and other permissions needed to hunt at no additional cost. A license holder under this paragraph who qualifies to hunt during the special season on deer under section 11153 and who meets the eligibility requirements of section 11106 must have included in that person's license one antlerless deer permit and one either-sex permit. A nonresident junior hunting license does not exempt the holder of the license from lottery-related application requirements under this Part. A nonresident under 16 years of age who hunts without a nonresident junior hunting license commits a civil violation. [PL 2023, c. 431, §3 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]
- G. A nonresident small game hunting license, which permits hunting of all legal species except deer, bear, moose, raccoon and bobcat, is \$75. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- H. A nonresident 3-day small game hunting license, valid for 3 consecutive hunting days, which permits hunting of all legal species except deer, bear, moose, raccoon and bobcat for the 72-hour period specified on the license, is \$50. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- I. A nonresident hunting license, which permits hunting of all legal species subject to the permit requirements in subchapter 3, is \$115. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- J. A nonresident combination hunting and fishing license is \$150. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
- K. [PL 2017, c. 427, §6 (RP); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]
- L. [PL 2017, c. 427, §6 (RP); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]
- M. [PL 2017, c. 427, §6 (RP); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]
- N. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RP).]
- O. A nonresident small game apprenticeship hunter license, which permits the hunting of all legal species except deer, bear, moose, raccoon and bobcat, is \$75 and includes a wild turkey hunting permit under section 11155. [PL 2017, c. 164, §10 (AMD).]
- P. A nonresident apprenticeship hunter license, which permits the hunting of all legal species and includes a bear hunting permit and a wild turkey hunting permit under sections 11151 and 11155, respectively, is \$115. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (RPR).]
[PL 2023, c. 431, §§2, 3 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

4. Muzzle-loading permit; issuance and agent's fee. The commissioner, through the commissioner's agent, shall issue muzzle-loading permits to eligible persons. The issuing agent shall charge a fee of \$1 for each permit issued.

[PL 2005, c. 397, Pt. E, §6 (AMD).]

5. Muzzle-loading permits and fees. Muzzle-loading hunting permits and fees are as follows:

A. A resident muzzle-loading hunting permit is \$13; and [PL 2017, c. 427, §7 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

B. A nonresident muzzle-loading hunting permit is \$69. [PL 2017, c. 427, §7 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

C. [PL 2017, c. 427, §7 (RP); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 427, §7 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

6. Issuance of archery hunting license; agent's fee. Clerks or other agents appointed by the commissioner to issue archery hunting licenses must charge a fee of \$1 for each archery hunting license issued. The commissioner shall charge a fee of \$1 for each archery hunting license issued by department employees.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

7. Archery hunting licenses; combination licenses; fees. Archery hunting licenses, combination licenses and fees are as follows:

A. A resident archery license is \$26; [PL 2015, c. 245, §3 (AMD).]

B. A resident combination archery hunting and fishing license is \$43; [PL 2015, c. 245, §3 (AMD).]

C. A nonresident archery license is \$75; and [PL 2017, c. 427, §8 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

D. [PL 2017, c. 427, §8 (RP); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

E. A nonresident 6-day archery license, which is valid for 6 consecutive hunting days, is \$26. [PL 2017, c. 125, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 427, §8 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

8. Issuance of crossbow permit; agent's fee.

[PL 2023, c. 239, §17 (RP).]

9. Crossbow permits and fees.

[PL 2023, c. 239, §18 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B115,116 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §§III4,5 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 397, §§E6,7 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 419, §5 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 419, §12 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 168, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 168, §8 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 203, §§7-9 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. OO, §§2-5 (AMD). RR 2011, c. 1, §15 (COR). PL 2013, c. 213, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 408, §12 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §§21, 22 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 90, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 127, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 127, §6 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 136, §§9, 10 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 245, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. A, §4 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §§4-6 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §13 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §7 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. D, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 125, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 164, §§8-10 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 427, §§5-9 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF). PL 2019, c.

501, §8 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §§17, 18 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

§11109-A. Super pack license

Except as otherwise provided in this section, a super pack license includes all licenses and permits issued under this Part to hunt and fish all legal game and fish species, subject to the restrictions placed on the equivalent individual licenses or permits for those species. An individual license or permit contained in the super pack license is not valid unless the holder of the super pack license has met the eligibility requirements for that specific license or permit and is not otherwise prohibited from holding that license or permit. A person may be issued a super pack license without meeting the specific requirements of an individual license or permit contained in the super pack license, but that license or permit is invalid until the license holder meets the eligibility requirements for that particular license or permit. All restrictions and conditions on hunting and fishing apply to a super pack licensee. [PL 2007, c. 163, §1 (AMD); PL 2007, c. 163, §3 (AFF).]

1. Moose lottery chances. A super pack license includes, upon application, one chance in the moose lottery under section 11154, subsection 6. [PL 2011, c. 370, §3 (AMD).]

2. Antlerless deer permit.

[PL 2019, c. 116, §1 (RP).]

2-A. Antlerless deer permit. The following provisions govern the ability of a super pack license holder to obtain an antlerless deer permit.

A. In a wildlife management district in which the commissioner issues at least 2,000 antlerless deer permits, the commissioner may allocate up to 2.5% of those antlerless deer permits to super pack license holders. The commissioner shall award to successful applicants an antlerless deer permit as described under section 11152, valid for use only in a designated district. [PL 2023, c. 228, §7 (RPR); PL 2023, c. 228, §17 (AFF).]

B. In order to receive a super pack antlerless deer permit, a super pack licensee must apply through the antlerless deer permit lottery. If the applicant receives a super pack antlerless deer permit in accordance with paragraph A, the applicant may claim the permit at no cost. If the applicant receives but does not claim the permit, the applicant forfeits the permit. If the applicant does not receive a super pack antlerless deer permit in accordance with paragraph A, the applicant is eligible to receive an antlerless deer permit by means of the antlerless deer permit lottery as described in section 11152 and if received may claim and pay for the antlerless deer permit. The applicant may purchase an antlerless deer permit over the counter. [PL 2023, c. 228, §7 (RPR); PL 2023, c. 228, §17 (AFF).]

[PL 2023, c. 228, §7 (RPR); PL 2023, c. 228, §17 (AFF).]

3. Deer harvest authorizations. Notwithstanding section 11501, a super pack license authorizes the holder to take:

A. One deer during either the regular open firearm season or the regular archery season or the special muzzle-loading season in accordance with sections 11401, 11403 and 11404, respectively; and [PL 2023, c. 228, §8 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 228, §17 (AFF).]

B. [PL 2023, c. 228, §8 (RP); PL 2023, c. 228, §17 (AFF).]

C. Three antlerless deer and one deer of either sex during the special archery season in accordance with section 11402, subsection 4. [PL 2023, c. 49, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 49, §3 (AFF).]

[PL 2023, c. 228, §8 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 228, §17 (AFF).]

4. Licenses not included. A super pack license does not include:

- A. A license or permit under subchapters 13 and 15; [RR 2011, c. 1, §16 (COR).]
 - B. A license or permit under chapter 917; [PL 2007, c. 163, §1 (NEW); PL 2007, c. 163, §3 (AFF).]
 - C. A permit or certificate under chapter 921; [PL 2007, c. 163, §1 (NEW); PL 2007, c. 163, §3 (AFF).]
 - D. A license or permit under chapter 923, subchapter 2, except it does include licenses issued to fish pursuant to section 12501; [PL 2007, c. 163, §1 (NEW); PL 2007, c. 163, §3 (AFF).]
 - E. A license or permit under chapter 923, subchapter 3; [PL 2007, c. 163, §1 (NEW); PL 2007, c. 163, §3 (AFF).]
 - F. A license under chapter 927; or [PL 2017, c. 205, §6 (AMD).]
 - G. [PL 2017, c. 205, §7 (RP).]
 - H. A moose permit under section 11154. [PL 2007, c. 163, §1 (NEW); PL 2007, c. 163, §3 (AFF).]
- [PL 2017, c. 205, §§6, 7 (AMD).]

5. Fee. The fee for a super pack license is \$207 for residents and \$182 for a person holding 2 or more lifetime licenses.
[PL 2023, c. 49, §2 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 49, §3 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 12, §III6 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 477, §4 (RPR). PL 2007, c. 163, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 163, §3 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 492, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 132, §1 (AMD). RR 2011, c. 1, §16 (COR). PL 2011, c. 252, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 252, §2 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 370, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 245, §5 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 205, §§6, 7 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 116, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 184, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 599, §§8, 9 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 49, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 49, §3 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 228, §§7, 8 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 228, §17 (AFF).

§11110. Transfer of hunting areas or zones

1. Transfer permitted. A person who has been assigned a designated hunting area, zone or season by the department for purposes of hunting moose may exchange that designated zone, area or season with another person assigned a different hunting zone, area or season for purposes of hunting moose. The department may assist in the exchange to ensure that the permit holders meet the requirements of section 10756, but the State bears no responsibility for enforcing the terms of the exchange between the permit holders. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.
[PL 2021, c. 599, §10 (AMD).]

2. Transfer of moose permit for consideration prohibited.
[PL 2017, c. 379, §1 (RP).]

3. Facilitating for consideration transfer of a moose permit prohibited. A person may not facilitate for consideration the exchange of moose permits between holders of moose permits who are exchanging those permits pursuant to subsection 1. For purposes of this subsection, "facilitate for consideration" means to directly receive compensation or something of value solely as part of an exchange of moose permits. A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2017, c. 379, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B117 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 74, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §14 (RPR). PL 2017, c. 379, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 599, §10 (AMD).

§11111. Tracking wounded animals with a leashed dog

1. Permit required. Except as provided in section 12862 or otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not use a leashed dog to track a wounded animal without a valid permit issued pursuant to this section. For purposes of this section, "wounded animal" means a lawfully wounded bear, deer or moose.

[PL 2015, c. 90, §2 (NEW).]

2. Eligibility; license fee. A person who holds a valid big game hunting license may obtain from the commissioner a permit to use a leashed dog to track a wounded animal. The fee for a 3-year permit to use a leashed dog to track a wounded animal is \$81.

[PL 2015, c. 90, §2 (NEW).]

3. Dog tracking services. A person who holds a valid permit issued pursuant to this section may charge a fee for dog tracking services. Notwithstanding section 10001, subsection 28, a person is not a guide if the only services that person charges a fee for are dog tracking services pursuant to this subsection.

[PL 2015, c. 90, §2 (NEW).]

4. Penalties. Each day a person violates subsection 1, that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable permit fee must be imposed.

[PL 2015, c. 90, §2 (NEW).]

5. Tracking a wounded animal after legal hunting hours. Notwithstanding sections 11205 and 11206, a person who holds a valid permit issued pursuant to this section may use a leashed dog to track a wounded animal outside of legal hunting hours.

[PL 2015, c. 90, §2 (NEW).]

6. Rules. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section, which may include, but are not limited to, training requirements, the type and number of dogs used, leash requirements and the time and manner in which a wounded animal may be tracked and dispatched. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2015, c. 90, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B117 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 90, §2 (RPR).

SUBCHAPTER 3**HUNTING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND FEES****§11151. Bear hunting permit**

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not hunt for bear without a valid permit during the open season on hunting bear established pursuant to section 11251. A person may hunt for bear without a valid permit during the open firearm season on deer under section 11401. This section does not apply to trapping for bear.

Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2021, c. 100, §2 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

2. Eligibility; hunting or archery license required. A person who possesses a valid hunting or archery hunting license may obtain a permit to hunt for bear from the commissioner or an authorized agent.

[PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §7 (AMD).]

3. Issuance; permit fee. The commissioner, through the commissioner's authorized agent, shall issue a bear hunting permit or permits to an eligible person. When the bag limit on bear is more than one, a bear hunting permit is required for each bear. The annual fee for each permit issued is \$10 for residents and \$74 for nonresidents.

[PL 2021, c. 100, §3 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B118 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III7 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. OO, §6 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §7 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).

§11151-A. Nonresident late season bear hunting permit

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part or for a nonresident who holds a valid bear hunting permit under section 11151, a nonresident may not hunt for bear during the regular firearm season on deer under section 11401 without a valid permit issued pursuant to this section.

Each day a person violates this subsection, that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2007, c. 168, §4 (NEW); PL 2007, c. 168, §8 (AFF).]

2. Eligibility; nonresident late season bear hunting permit. A person who possesses a valid nonresident hunting or archery hunting license may obtain a permit to hunt for bear from the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent.

[PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §8 (AMD).]

3. Issuance; permit fee. The commissioner, through the commissioner's authorized agent, shall issue a nonresident late season bear hunting permit or permits to an eligible person. When the bag limit on bear is more than one, a bear hunting permit is required for each bear. The annual fee for each permit issued is \$40.

[PL 2021, c. 100, §4 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 168, §4 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 168, §8 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §8 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).

§11152. Antlerless deer; regulation and authority to issue permits

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not hunt antlerless deer as authorized in this section unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section or is hunting in an area that is designated by rule as open to the hunting of antlerless deer or either-sex deer without an antlerless deer permit.

A. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2007, c. 463, §3 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2007, c. 463, §3 (RP).]

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (AMD).]

1-A. Antlerless deer in wildlife management districts. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a person may not hunt or possess an antlerless deer in a wildlife management district or a portion of a wildlife management district in which the taking of antlerless deer is not allowed. A person may

possess in one of those districts an antlerless deer that has been lawfully taken in another district where antlerless deer may be legally taken.

A person that violates this subsection commits a Class D crime for which a minimum fine of \$1,000 must be imposed, and the court shall impose a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of at least 3 days, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (AMD).]

2. Authority to regulate taking of antlerless deer. The commissioner may regulate the taking of antlerless deer by rule within an area of the State as necessary to maintain deer populations in balance with available habitat if the demarcation of each area follows recognizable physical boundaries such as rivers, roads and railroad rights-of-way. This subsection does not apply to a person with a special antlerless deer permit under subsection 7.

A. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §120 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §120 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (AMD).]

2-A. Authority to regulate taking of antlerless deer in certain areas within wildlife management districts where no permits are issued.

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (RP).]

3. Rulemaking. The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the administration, implementation, enforcement and interpretation of this section, except that the commissioner is not authorized to establish an antlerless deer permit lottery unless otherwise specified in this section. If the commissioner establishes by rule a lottery for issuing antlerless deer permits to eligible persons, the commissioner may also allow for the direct purchase of additional antlerless deer permits in certain wildlife management districts or portions of wildlife management districts as the commissioner finds necessary to maintain balanced deer populations. The commissioner may appoint clerks or agents under section 10801 to process applications for permits issued under this section. A clerk or agent appointed by the commissioner to process applications shall charge a fee of \$2 for each application processed by that clerk or agent under this section. Rules adopted by the commissioner that provide for permits to be issued to nonresident hunters must provide that:

A. [PL 2011, c. 533, §3 (RP).]

B. No more than 15% of the antlerless deer permits issued in any one district or in any one zone may be issued to nonresident hunters. [PL 2017, c. 427, §10 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (AMD).]

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 antlerless deer permits in a wildlife management district to eligible landowners that apply for an antlerless deer permit in that district. 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.

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (AMD).]

5. Hunter permit transfers.

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (RP).]

5-A. Permit transfer to junior hunter.

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (RP).]

6. Transfer of antlerless deer permit to person with ambulatory disabilities.

[PL 2013, c. 322, §2 (RP).]

7. Special antlerless deer permit. The commissioner shall issue a special antlerless deer permit to an eligible person who has lost all or part of one or more lower limbs, not including a partial foot amputation, or is suffering from the permanent loss of use of both lower limbs. The commissioner shall issue a permit upon application and after the applicant verifies that person's ambulatory disability with a letter signed by a physician confirming the person's condition. A person who is issued a special antlerless deer permit under this subsection may take an antlerless deer in any part of the State open to the taking of antlerless deer pursuant to subsection 3.

[PL 2013, c. 538, §23 (AMD).]

8. Junior hunter consideration. An antlerless deer permit lottery adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section may include a provision giving special consideration to persons with a valid junior hunting license. As part of the special consideration to junior hunters, the commissioner shall provide at least 25% of the available antlerless deer permits in a wildlife management district to persons with a valid junior hunting license who apply for an antlerless deer permit in that district.

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (AMD).]

9. Fee. The fee for an antlerless deer permit is \$12 for residents and nonresidents.

[PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B119-123 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 142, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 477, §5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 463, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 492, §4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 186, §3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 253, §18 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 533, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 213, §3 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 322, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 408, §13 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §23 (AMD). RR 2015, c. 1, §7 (COR). PL 2015, c. 219, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 205, §§8, 9 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 427, §10 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 324, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 599, §11 (AMD).

§11153. Special season deer permits; fees

1. Special season deer hunting permits; authority to issue for special season. The commissioner may implement a permit system to regulate hunter participation in a special season established by the commissioner pursuant to section 11402, subsection 4, paragraph B and the number, sex and age of deer harvested. A person may hunt or possess a deer of either sex during a special season on deer if that person has a valid permit issued by the commissioner. If permits are issued, the fee for an either-sex permit is \$32 and the fee for an antlerless deer permit is \$12.

[PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. C, §5 (AMD).]

2. Prohibition. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not hunt deer during a special season established under this section unless that person has a valid permit issued pursuant to this section.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

3. Penalty. Each day a person violates this section that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §124 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B124 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III8 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. C, §5 (AMD).

§11154. Moose permit

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a person may not hunt or possess a moose unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section. A person without a moose permit may possess moose parts lawfully sold under section 11217, subsection 2, paragraph D.

A person who violates this subsection commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended; the court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §125 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Issuance of moose hunting permits. In accordance with section 11552, the commissioner may issue moose hunting permits and may establish the number of moose hunting permits to be issued for each wildlife management district established by the commissioner by rule open to moose hunting. No more than 8% of the moose hunting permits may be issued to nonresidents. No more than 2% of the moose hunting permits may be issued to hunting outfitters in accordance with subsection 14.

[PL 2021, c. 184, §3 (RPR).]

3. Moose hunting permit fee. The fee for a moose hunting permit is \$52 for a resident and \$585 for a nonresident.

[PL 2017, c. 427, §12 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

4. Hunting license required. While hunting moose, the permittee and the subpermittee shall each have in that person's possession a valid Maine resident or nonresident hunting or archery hunting license, whichever is applicable.

Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2017, c. 427, §13 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

5. Eligibility. Except as provided in this subsection, a resident or nonresident who is eligible to obtain a Maine hunting license or who will be eligible to obtain a Maine hunting license by the opening day of the open moose season is eligible to apply for a moose hunting permit. A person who has obtained a moose hunting permit is ineligible to obtain another permit until the 4th calendar year after the issuance of the last permit. This limitation does not apply to subpermittees under subsection 7. A person under 10 years of age on the opening day of the open moose season is eligible to apply for a moose hunting permit and may accrue points under subsection 8 but is ineligible to receive a moose hunting permit.

[PL 2017, c. 427, §14 (RPR); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

6. Application procedure. An eligible person wishing to apply for a permit must file a written application for a permit on a form furnished by the commissioner. The application fee is nonrefundable. A person may file no more than one application. A person who submits more than one application is disqualified from the selection of permittees. The application must be accompanied by an application fee of:

A. For a resident:

(1) Fifteen dollars for a one-chance application; or [PL 2011, c. 370, §6 (AMD).]

B. For a nonresident:

- (1) Fifteen dollars for a one-chance application;
- (2) Twenty-five dollars for a 3-chance application;
- (3) Thirty-five dollars for a 6-chance application; and
- (4) Fifty-five dollars for a 10-chance application; multiple 10-chance options may be purchased. [PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §10 (AMD).]

A clerk or agent appointed by the commissioner under section 10801 may process an application under this subsection. The clerk or agent shall charge a fee of \$2 for each application under this subsection processed by that clerk or agent.

The commissioner shall allow an applicant to indicate that that applicant does not want to receive a moose permit pursuant to the application but wishes to receive the corresponding points under subsection 8 for that application.
[PL 2011, c. 370, §6 (AMD).]

7. Subpermittees. An applicant for a moose permit may indicate on the application filed pursuant to subsection 6 the name of a subpermittee-designate and the name of an alternate subpermittee-designate. A person under 10 years of age on the opening day of the open moose season may not be a subpermittee-designate or alternate subpermittee-designate. If the applicant is issued a moose permit under subsection 9 and upon application to the commissioner, the permittee may change that person's subpermittee-designate or alternate subpermittee-designate until 30 days prior to the start of the moose hunting season for which the permit was issued. Thirty days prior to the start of the applicable moose hunting season, the subpermittee-designate becomes a subpermittee. The permittee may authorize the subpermittee to participate in the moose hunt with the permittee. The permittee may authorize the alternate subpermittee-designate to participate in the hunt in place of the subpermittee-designate if the permittee notifies the department of the authorization at least 5 business days prior to the first day of the moose season, in which case the alternate subpermittee-designate becomes the subpermittee. The permittee may choose not to authorize a subpermittee to participate in the hunt.

A. A person may not sell a subpermittee or an alternate subpermittee designation. [PL 2011, c. 370, §7 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates paragraph A commits a Class E crime. [PL 2011, c. 370, §7 (NEW).]
[PL 2017, c. 96, §2 (AMD).]

8. Point system for public chance drawing. A person accumulates points as follows for each consecutive year that person purchases an application for a moose hunting permit but is not selected to receive a permit:

- A. One point each year for the first 5 years; [PL 2011, c. 370, §8 (NEW).]
- B. Two points each year for years 6 to 10; [PL 2011, c. 370, §8 (NEW).]
- C. Three points each year for years 11 to 15; and [PL 2011, c. 370, §8 (NEW).]
- D. Ten points each year after the 15th year. [PL 2011, c. 370, §8 (NEW).]

Each point entitles an applicant to one chance in the public chance drawing. A person's accumulated points are eliminated and that person begins to accumulate points anew if in any year that person is selected to receive a moose hunting permit or if that person fails to purchase a new chance in any 2 consecutive years.

A person who is ineligible to receive a moose hunting permit as provided in subsection 5 may continue to purchase points for each year that person is ineligible to receive a moose hunting permit for the corresponding application fee under subsection 6.
[PL 2011, c. 370, §8 (RPR).]

9. Selection procedure. Permittees are selected by a public chance drawing, except that a permit must be issued to any resident who is 65 years of age or older or will attain 65 years of age during the calendar year in which the resident is applying for the permit, who has accumulated at least 30 points pursuant to subsection 8 and who applies for and is otherwise eligible to obtain the permit.

[PL 2017, c. 76, §1 (AMD).]

9-A. Permits in road safety management areas.

[PL 2021, c. 184, §4 (RP).]

10. Questionnaire.

[PL 2021, c. 184, §5 (RP).]

11. Auction of moose hunting permits to fund youth conservation education programs.

Notwithstanding subsection 1, the commissioner may issue not more than 10 moose hunting permits each year through public auction in accordance with this subsection.

A. Each moose hunting permit issued under this subsection must be awarded through public auction to the applicant who submits the highest bid. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. A person who applies for a moose hunting permit under this subsection is subject to the eligibility provisions of subsection 5, except that a successful applicant is not required to wait 3 years in order to obtain another permit. [PL 2011, c. 370, §9 (AMD).]

C. An eligible person wishing to apply for a permit under this subsection must submit a written application in such form as the commissioner may require. The application must be accompanied by a bidding fee of \$25, which, except as otherwise provided in paragraph D, is nonrefundable. The commissioner may waive the requirements of this paragraph when, as provided in paragraph G, the commissioner enters into a contract with a conservation organization to auction the permits. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §128 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

D. An eligible person may apply for a moose hunting permit both through the public chance drawing and in accordance with this subsection. If a person is selected to receive a moose hunting permit as a result of the public chance drawing, that person is no longer eligible to obtain a permit under this subsection and the bidding fee submitted by that person must be refunded. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

E. A moose hunting permit issued under this subsection is valid in the district designated by the permittee. This designation must be made within 30 days after the permit is awarded. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

F. A person who is awarded a moose hunting permit under this subsection may select a subpermittee to participate in the moose hunt as provided in subsection 7. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

G. The commissioner may enter into a contract with a conservation organization whose goals and objectives are not inconsistent with those of the department to advertise this process of issuing permits, auction the permits and collect revenues. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

H. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this Part relating to moose are applicable to the hunting of moose with a permit awarded under this subsection. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

I. The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the proper administration, implementation, enforcement and interpretation of this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are

routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §129 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

J. Notwithstanding this subsection, the total number of moose hunting permits issued each year must be in accordance with section 11552, subsection 2. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

K. The commissioner may decline to issue any permit or any number of permits issuable pursuant to this subsection if, in the commissioner's opinion, the auction bids received do not reflect the public value anticipated to meet the goals of this subsection. Any permit or permits not issued under this subsection must be drawn in the public chance drawing pursuant to subsection 9. [PL 2007, c. 161, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2011, c. 370, §9 (AMD).]

12. Persons in armed forces called to serve in armed conflict. A person who is issued a moose permit under this section and who is subsequently called to active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States to serve in an armed conflict and is unable to use the permit is entitled to use the same permit during the next appropriate season following that person's return to the State. Permits used under this subsection do not affect the number of permits that may be issued by the commissioner under this section. For purposes of this subsection, "armed conflict" means any military action in which participants are exposed to war-risk hazards as defined in 42 United States Code, Section 1711(b). [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

13. Hunting adventure permits for children. Notwithstanding subsection 6, the commissioner may issue 5 moose permits to a nonprofit organization or organizations dedicated to providing hunting and fishing adventures to children under 21 years of age with life-threatening, critical or terminal illnesses. At least 3 of the permits issued under this subsection must be issued to an eligible nonprofit organization based in the State, and a child who receives a permit from that organization must be a resident. The commissioner may issue these permits upon written request by an eligible nonprofit organization or organizations but may not issue more than 5 permits in total for a calendar year. These permits are in addition to the moose hunting permits issued under subsection 2 for each wildlife management district and are at no cost to the organization. [PL 2023, c. 526, §1 (AMD).]

14. Permits for hunting lodges. Moose hunting permits issued to hunting outfitters must be allocated through a chance drawing separate from the chance drawing under subsection 9. The fee for a moose hunting permit under this subsection is \$1,500.

A. For the purposes of this subsection, "hunting outfitter" means a person who operates a sporting camp as defined under Title 22, section 2491, subsection 11 that is licensed under Title 22, chapter 562 and who provides package deals that include food, lodging and the services of a guide licensed under chapter 927 for the purpose of hunting. [PL 2013, c. 538, §24 (NEW).]

B. A hunting outfitter may sell or transfer a permit allocated under this subsection only once, only to a hunter who is eligible under paragraph F and only under the following conditions:

- (1) The sale or transfer must be part of a package deal that includes the food and lodging to be provided by the hunting outfitter to the person receiving the permit;
- (2) The person receiving the permit from the hunting outfitter must be accompanied during the hunt by a guide licensed under chapter 927;
- (3) The hunting outfitter must notify the department of the identity of the person receiving the permit; and
- (4) The hunting permit may not be sold or transferred by the hunter. [PL 2013, c. 538, §24 (NEW).]

C. A hunting outfitter may be allocated more than one permit. [PL 2013, c. 538, §24 (NEW).]

D. A permit allocated under this subsection may be used only for the year, season, sex and wildlife management district for which the permit is issued. [PL 2013, c. 538, §24 (NEW).]

E. Permits allocated under this subsection may not exceed 10% of the total permits issued per year for each season, sex and wildlife management district permit type. [PL 2013, c. 538, §24 (NEW).]

F. An individual may hunt with a permit sold or transferred under this subsection only if that individual is otherwise eligible to obtain and hunt with a permit under subsection 5. [PL 2013, c. 538, §24 (NEW).]

G. If proceeds in any year from the auction authorized under subsection 11 are less than \$107,000, proceeds from the sale of moose permits to hunting outfitters pursuant to this subsection must be used to fund youth conservation education programs as provided under subsection 11 up to \$107,000. The remainder must be deposited in the Moose Research and Management Fund under section 10263. [PL 2017, c. 458, §2 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 458, §2 (AMD).]

15. Moose permit transfer; family members. The commissioner, in cases involving exceptional extenuating circumstances as determined by the commissioner, may authorize a person who holds a valid moose permit to transfer that permit to a family member who meets the eligibility and permit requirements under this section and who is not otherwise prohibited from holding the moose permit, except that the commissioner shall transfer a moose permit to a family member who meets the eligibility and permit requirements under this section and who is not otherwise prohibited from holding the moose permit if the permit holder dies at any time prior to or during the moose hunting season if a moose has not yet been harvested under that permit. A transferor and a transferee are subject to the elimination of any accumulated points under subsection 8 and the 3-year ineligibility period under subsection 5. For purposes of this subsection, "family member" means the transferor's spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, sibling, half-sibling or adopted child.

The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this subsection and may establish a transfer fee to recover administrative costs associated with transferring moose permits. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §75 (COR).]

16. Moose permit transfer; disabled veterans. A person who holds a valid moose permit may transfer, in accordance with this subsection, that permit to a disabled veteran who meets the eligibility and permit requirements under this section and section 10853, subsection 4 and who is not otherwise prohibited from holding a moose permit. The commissioner may authorize a permit holder to transfer the moose permit to a disabled veteran identified by the permit holder or the permit holder may return the permit to the department, which, in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, shall provide for the transfer of the permit to a disabled veteran. A transferor and a transferee of the permit are subject to the elimination of any accumulated points under subsection 8 and the 3-year ineligibility period under subsection 5. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2019, c. 191, §1 (NEW).]

17. Moose permit deferment; significant medical illness. The commissioner may authorize a person who holds a valid moose permit to defer the permit until the next moose hunting season in circumstances in which the permit holder or an immediate family member, as defined in subsection 15, of the permit holder has a significant medical illness that would prevent the permit holder from participating in the moose hunt.

[PL 2019, c. 638, §2 (NEW).]

18. Moose permit deferment; multiple permits in single household. The commissioner may authorize a person who holds a valid moose permit to defer the permit until the next moose hunting season in circumstances in which a member of that permit holder's household also holds a valid moose permit for the same hunting season. For the purposes of this subsection, members of a household are limited to a grandparent, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandchild and stepgrandchild sharing the same legal address. Under this subsection, the person is ineligible to be selected for another moose permit in accordance with subsection 5 beginning in the calendar year that the person uses a permit deferred.

For the purposes of this subsection, "next moose hunting season" means the moose hunting season in the calendar year immediately following a person's selection under subsection 9.

[PL 2023, c. 127, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B125-129 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §§III9,10 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 143, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 161, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 186, §4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. OO, §7 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 370, §§4-9 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 226, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §24 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 95, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §11 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 136, §12 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §9 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 72, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 76, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 96, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 427, §§11-14 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 458, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 143, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 191, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 638, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 184, §§3-5 (AMD). RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §75 (COR). PL 2023, c. 127, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 526, §1 (AMD).

§11155. Wild turkey hunting permits

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not hunt or possess wild turkey unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section.

A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than \$500, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of \$500 for each wild turkey unlawfully possessed, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

1-A. Eligibility; hunting or archery license required. A person who possesses a valid hunting or archery hunting license to hunt may obtain a permit to hunt for wild turkey from the commissioner or an authorized agent.

[PL 2015, c. 127, §6 (AFF); PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §10 (AMD).]

1-B. Issuance; permit fee.

[PL 2013, c. 387, §1 (AMD); MRS T. 12 §11155, sub-§1-B (RP).]

1-C. Issuance; permit fee. Beginning January 1, 2014, the commissioner, through the commissioner's authorized agent, shall issue in wildlife management districts that are open by rule for wild turkey hunting a wild turkey hunting permit that allows an eligible person to take wild turkeys in accordance with section 11701. The fee for a wild turkey hunting permit is \$20 for residents and nonresidents.

[PL 2017, c. 85, §2 (AMD).]

2. Issuance of wild turkey hunting permits.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §12 (RP).]

3. Eligibility.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §12 (RP).]

4. Application procedure and fee.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §13 (RP).]

5. Wild turkey hunting permit fee.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §14 (RP).]

6. Transfer of turkey permits.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §14 (RP).]

7. Landowner; wild turkey permit.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §14 (RP).]

8. Big game license required.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §14 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B130 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422,C2,6 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §§III11-14 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. OO, §8 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 387, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 127, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 127, §6 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §10 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 85, §2 (AMD).

§11156. Pheasant hunting permit

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not hunt pheasant in Cumberland County or York County unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Rules. The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the proper administration, enforcement and interpretation of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §131 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Issuance. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent may issue a pheasant hunting permit to an applicant 16 years of age or older permitting the applicant to hunt or possess pheasants in Cumberland County and York County. A person under 16 years of age may hunt or possess pheasants in accordance with this Part, except that a person under 16 years of age is not required to purchase or carry a pheasant hunting permit in order to hunt or possess pheasants.

Beginning January 1, 2016, for those persons who obtain a junior hunting license and turn 16 years of age during the same calendar year, the pheasant hunting permit is included even after the person has turned 16 years of age as long as that person is hunting on that person's valid junior hunting license and not longer than the remainder of the calendar year for which the license is issued.

[PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

4. Fee. The fee for a pheasant hunting permit is \$29, \$2 of which is retained by the commissioner's authorized agent.

[PL 2023, c. 308, §8 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 308, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B131 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §§III15 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. D, §3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 308, §8 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 308, §14 (AFF).

§11157. Migratory waterfowl permit

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not hunt migratory waterfowl unless that person has a valid permit issued pursuant to this section. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Issuance of permit. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent shall issue a migratory waterfowl hunting permit to an applicant 16 years of age or older permitting the applicant to hunt or possess migratory waterfowl. A person under 16 years of age may, without a permit, hunt or possess migratory waterfowl in accordance with this Part.

Beginning January 1, 2016, for those persons who obtain a junior hunting license and turn 16 years of age during the same calendar year, the migratory waterfowl hunting permit is included even after the person has turned 16 years of age as long as that person is hunting on that person's valid junior hunting license and not longer than the remainder of the calendar year for which the license is issued.

[PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. D, §4 (AMD).]

3. Fee. The fee for a migratory waterfowl hunting permit is \$7.50, 25¢ of which must be retained by the agent.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §16 (AMD).]

4. Expiration date. Migratory waterfowl hunting permits expire on December 31st of the year issued.

A. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §132 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §132 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §132 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B132 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III16 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. D, §4 (AMD).

§11158. Migratory game bird certification

1. Certification required; exception. A person may not hunt migratory game birds unless that person is certified under this section. This section does not apply to a resident of the State who is 70 years of age or older and who is issued a complimentary license pursuant to section 10853, subsection 1.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged, unless otherwise specified. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §133 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §133 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §133 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Eligibility. A resident of the State or nonresident who is eligible to obtain a state hunting license is eligible to be certified to hunt migratory game birds.

[PL 2017, c. 427, §15 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

3. Certification procedure. An eligible person becomes certified to hunt migratory game birds when that person indicates on that person's hunting license at the time of purchase the intention to hunt migratory game birds during the calendar year for which the license is valid.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B133 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 427, §15 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).

§11159. Falconry hunting permit

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized in this Part, a person may not engage in the practice of falconry unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a civil violation.

[PL 2023, c. 431, §4 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

2. Eligibility. A person who possesses a valid hunting license is eligible to obtain a permit from the commissioner to engage in the practice of falconry.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

3. Issuance and fee. The commissioner shall issue permits to eligible persons to engage in the practice of falconry at a fee of \$26.

A. The permit may be for a one-year, 2-year or 3-year period at a fee equivalent to the sum of the annual fees established for each of the years for which the permit is issued. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. A person not a resident of the State who holds a valid permit to engage in the practice of falconry in another state may import and use raptors in this State for up to 30 days solely for the purpose of hunting without the permit described in this section if that person holds a valid Maine hunting license issued in accordance with subchapter 2. A person must have both the permit to engage in the practice of falconry in the other state and the Maine hunting license in possession at all times while engaged in the practice of falconry in this State. These documents must be exhibited to a warden or employee of the department upon request. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §17 (AMD).]

4. Rules. The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §134 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

5. Compliance with rules and regulations. Falconry hunting is subject to the following limitations.

A. A person who holds a valid falconry hunting permit may take, possess and use any raptor, except as provided in this Part or by federal regulation and except as the commissioner may by rule provide. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Persons engaged in the practice of falconry are subject to all rules adopted by the commissioner pertaining to seasons and bag limits on wild birds and wild animals. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B134 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III17 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §4 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

§11160. Coyote night hunting permit

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not hunt coyote at night unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section. Each night a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Eligibility; hunting license required. A person who possesses a valid hunting license is eligible to obtain a permit from the commissioner to hunt coyotes at night, except that a permit may not be issued to a person who has been convicted of a violation of section 11206 within 5 years of the date of application for the permit.

[RR 2011, c. 1, §17 (COR).]

3. Issuance. The commissioner shall issue a permit to hunt coyotes at night to eligible persons at a fee of \$4.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §18 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B135 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III18 (AMD). RR 2011, c. 1, §17 (COR).

§11161. Noise suppression devices

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2015, c. 1, §8 (RAL). PL 2015, c. 262, §1 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 281, Pt. E, §11 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 366, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 112, §2 (RP).

§11162. Eligibility for crossbow hunting permit

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 12, SECTION 11161)

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2015, c. 1, §8 (RAL). PL 2019, c. 637, §§4-8 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §19 (RP).

§11163. Dog training and hunting permit

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not train a hunting dog on bear, fox or raccoon or hunt bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon with a dog without a valid dog training and hunting permit issued under this section. A person who is training or hunting with a dog under the supervision of and in the presence of a licensed guide who has a valid dog training and hunting permit is exempt from this subsection.

[PL 2021, c. 580, §7 (NEW).]

2. Issuance of permit. The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agent shall issue a dog training and hunting permit to an applicant 16 years of age or older permitting the applicant to hunt with or train dogs. A person under 16 years of age may, without a dog training and hunting permit, hunt with or train dogs in accordance with this Part.

[PL 2021, c. 580, §7 (NEW).]

3. Fee. The fee for a dog training and hunting permit is \$12.
[PL 2021, c. 580, §7 (NEW).]

4. Violations. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2021, c. 580, §7 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this section after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2021, c. 580, §7 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 580, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 580, §7 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 4

GENERAL UNLAWFUL ACTS PERTAINING TO HUNTING

§11201. Hunting during closed season

1. Closed season; general. A person may not hunt any wild animal or wild bird during the closed season or possess any wild animal or wild bird taken during the closed season on that wild animal or wild bird. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

2. Bear. A person who hunts or possesses a bear in violation of this section commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

3. Deer. A person who hunts or possesses a deer in violation of this section commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

4. Moose. A person who hunts or possesses a moose in violation of this section commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

5. Wild turkey. A person who hunts or possesses a wild turkey in violation of this section commits a Class E crime for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than \$500, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$500 for each wild turkey unlawfully possessed, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §3 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§C2,6 (AFF).

§11202. Unity Utilities District; closed season

There is a perpetually closed season on all wild animals and wild birds on property owned by the Unity Utilities District located on Route 139 and Prairie Road in the municipality of Unity in Waldo County. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§11203. Hunter orange clothing

1. Hunter orange required. A person may not hunt with firearms or crossbows during the open firearm season on deer unless that person is wearing 2 articles of hunter orange clothing that are in good, serviceable condition and visible from all sides, except that a person hunting waterfowl from a boat or blind or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys is not required to wear hunter orange clothing. One article of clothing must be a solid-colored hunter orange hat. The other article of clothing must cover a major portion of the torso, such as a jacket, vest, coat or poncho, and must be a minimum of 50% hunter orange in color. The presence of a decal on an article of clothing that is otherwise solid-colored hunter orange does not disqualify that article of clothing from satisfying the requirements of this subsection.

[PL 2005, c. 477, §6 (AMD).]

1-A. Religious opposition exemption. A person may substitute articles of bright red clothing for the articles of hunter orange clothing required under subsection 1 if the person has a religious opposition to the wearing of hunter orange clothing.

[PL 2017, c. 82, §1 (NEW).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §136 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this section after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §136 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §136 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B136 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §6 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 82, §1 (AMD).

§11204. Criminal trespass

A person may not possess a wild animal or wild bird taken while criminally trespassing as described in Title 17-A, section 402, except as otherwise provided in this Part. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§11205. Hunting on Sunday

1. Prohibition. A person may not:

A. Hunt wild animals or wild birds on Sunday; or [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Possess any wild animal or wild bird taken in violation of paragraph A except as otherwise provided in this Part. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §137 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §137 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B137 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11206. Night hunting

1. Prohibition. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a person may not:

A. Hunt wild birds or wild animals from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise of the following day; or [PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

B. [PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (RP); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

C. Possess any wild animal or wild bird taken in violation of paragraph A. [PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

2. Penalty. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended; the court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 and is in possession of night vision equipment commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended; the court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$2,000, none of which may be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

C. A person who violates subsection 1, is in possession of night vision equipment and has been convicted of a Class D crime within the past 10 years under Title 12, Part 13 commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 6 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended; the court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$2,000, none of which may be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

For purposes of this subsection, "night vision equipment" means a light amplification or thermal imaging device.

[PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 592, §3 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§C5,6 (AFF).

§11207. Twilight hunting**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B138 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11208. Unlawful shooting or discharge of firearm or archery equipment

1. Shooting or discharge of firearm or archery equipment over or near public paved way. A person may not:

- A. Shoot at any wild animal or wild bird from any public paved way or within 10 feet of the edge of the pavement of the public paved way or from within the right-of-way of any controlled access highway; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
- B. Discharge any firearm or archery equipment over a public paved way; or [PL 2023, c. 239, §20 (AMD).]
- C. Possess any wild animal or wild bird taken in violation of paragraph A or B, except as otherwise provided in this Part. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

This subsection does not prohibit a person who has a valid permit to carry a concealed weapon from possessing that weapon on or near a public paved way as long as it is not used for shooting at wild animals or wild birds or discharged in violation of this subsection. [PL 2023, c. 239, §20 (AMD).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §139 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B139 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §7 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §25 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §20 (AMD).

§11209. Discharge of firearm or archery equipment near dwelling or building

1. Prohibition. A person may not:

- A. Unless a relevant municipal ordinance provides otherwise and except as provided in subsection 4 and sections 12401 and 12402, discharge a firearm, including a muzzle-loading firearm, or cause a projectile to pass as a result of that discharge within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling without the permission of the owner or, in the owner's absence, of an adult occupant of that building or dwelling authorized to act on behalf of the owner; [PL 2023, c. 239, §21 (AMD).]

A-1. Except as provided in sections 12401 and 12402:

- (1) Discharge an arrow or a bolt from archery equipment when on land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the permission of the owner of that building or residential dwelling or, in the owner's absence, of an adult occupant of that building or dwelling authorized to act on behalf of the owner; or
- (2) Cause an arrow or a bolt from archery equipment to pass across the land of another person and within 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling on that land without the permission of the owner of that building or residential dwelling or, in the owner's absence, of an adult

occupant of that building or dwelling authorized to act on behalf of the owner; or [PL 2023, c. 239, §21 (AMD).]

B. Possess a wild animal or wild bird taken in violation of this subsection, except as otherwise provided in this Part. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

This subsection may not be construed to prohibit a person from killing or taking a wild animal in accordance with sections 12401 and 12402.

For purposes of this section, "building" means any residential, commercial, retail, educational, religious or farm structure that is designed to be occupied by people or domesticated animals or is being used to shelter machines or harvested crops.

For purposes of this section, "projectile" means a bullet, pellet, shot, shell, ball or other object propelled or launched from a firearm.

[PL 2023, c. 239, §21 (AMD).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §140 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Target practice; crossbow.
[PL 2023, c. 239, §21 (RP).]

4. Sport shooting ranges. Unless otherwise prohibited, a person may discharge a firearm on a sport shooting range as defined in Title 30-A, section 3011, subsection 1 that is within 100 yards of a building if the sport shooting range was established and in regular operation prior to the erection of the building.

[PL 2019, c. 14, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 527, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 527, §2 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B140 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B422,C1,6 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §8 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 340, §14 (AMD). RR 2013, c. 1, §26 (COR). PL 2013, c. 215, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §26 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 71, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 14, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 74, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §21 (AMD).

§11209-A. Discharge of firearm within 300 feet of state-owned boat launching ramp

1. Prohibition. A person may not discharge a firearm within 300 feet of a state-owned boat launching ramp that is posted in accordance with subsection 2.

[PL 2017, c. 69, §1 (NEW).]

2. Posting. An agency of the State having jurisdiction over a state-owned boat launching ramp may post notice, in a prominent location at the boat launching ramp, that the discharge of a firearm is prohibited within 300 feet of the boat launching ramp.

[PL 2017, c. 69, §1 (NEW).]

3. Exception. This section does not apply to a law enforcement officer in the performance of the law enforcement officer's official duties.

[PL 2017, c. 69, §1 (NEW).]

4. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2017, c. 69, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 69, §1 (NEW).

§11210. Shooting domestic animals

Except as provided in section 12404, subsection 6, paragraph C, a person may not, while on a hunting trip or in the pursuit of wild animals or wild birds, intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or negligently shoot and wound or kill any domestic animal, including, but not limited to, a dog, cat or domestic bird. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§11211. Unlawful use of firearm in Southport

1. Prohibited act. A person may not use any firearm other than a shotgun in the Town of Southport or the islands within the confines of the Town of Southport.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §141 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2007, c. 463, §5 (AMD).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §141 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2007, c. 463, §5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B141 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 463, §5 (AMD).

§11212. Motor vehicles and motorboats

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B142,143 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §9 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 327, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 176, §1 (RP).

§11212-A. Having a loaded firearm or crossbow in a motor vehicle or hunting or shooting from a motor vehicle or motorboat with a firearm or archery equipment

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Loaded firearm or crossbow" means a firearm with a cartridge or shell in the chamber or in an attached magazine, clip or cylinder or a muzzle-loading firearm charged with powder, lead and a primed ignition device or mechanism or a cocked and armed crossbow. [PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

B. "Vehicle" means a motor vehicle or a trailer or other type of vehicle being hauled by a motor vehicle. [PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

2. Prohibition; vehicles. A person may not shoot while in or on a vehicle, have a loaded firearm or crossbow while in or on a vehicle or rest a loaded firearm or crossbow on a vehicle except as provided in subsection 3.

[PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

3. Exceptions. The following exceptions apply to subsection 2.

A. While hunting, a person who is not in or on a vehicle may rest a loaded firearm or crossbow that is under the person's control on the vehicle to shoot only when the vehicle is not in motion and the engine of the vehicle is not running. [PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

B. While hunting, a person who is on but not within an enclosed area or passenger compartment of an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile may shoot a firearm or archery equipment or rest a loaded firearm or archery equipment that is under the person's control on the all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile to shoot only when the all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile is not in motion and the engine of the all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile is not running. [PL 2023, c. 239, §23 (AMD).]

C. While target shooting and not hunting, a person who is on but not within an enclosed area or passenger compartment of a vehicle may shoot a firearm or archery equipment or rest a loaded firearm or archery equipment that is under the person's control on the vehicle to shoot only when the vehicle is not in motion and the engine of the vehicle is not running. [PL 2023, c. 239, §24 (AMD).]

D. Notwithstanding paragraph A, a paraplegic or single or double amputee of the legs may shoot from a vehicle that is not in motion. [PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

E. A person who is 21 years of age or older and is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm or is 18 years of age or older and under 21 years of age and is on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard or is an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard and is not otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm may have in or on a vehicle a loaded pistol or revolver. [PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 239, §§23, 24 (AMD).]

4. Prohibition; motorboats. A person may not shoot while in or on a motorboat, except that:

A. A person may hunt migratory waterfowl from a motorboat in accordance with federal regulations; and [PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

B. A person may shoot from a motorboat if that boat is not being propelled by its motor. [PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

5. Possession of wild animals or wild birds. A person may not possess a wild animal or wild bird taken in violation of subsection 2 or 3, except as otherwise provided in this Part.

[PL 2019, c. 325, §4 (AMD).]

6. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 176, §2 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 325, §4 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §§22-24 (AMD).

§11213. Shooting at or near wildfowl decoys

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B144 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11213-A. Shooting at or near decoys

1. Shooting at or near migratory waterfowl or wild turkey decoys. A person may not with a firearm, a bow and arrow or a crossbow shoot or shoot at a migratory waterfowl or wild turkey decoy of another person.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §145 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §145 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2005, c. 94, §1 (AMD).]

2. Shoot within area of another person's decoys. A person may not with a firearm or archery equipment shoot within an area encompassed by a set of another person's migratory waterfowl or wild turkey decoys, including the area 50 yards away from the outer perimeter of the set of decoys.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §145 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §145 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2023, c. 239, §25 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B145 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 94, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §25 (AMD).

§11214. Unlawful use or possession of implements or aids

1. Prohibition. A person may not:

A. Use for hunting or possess for hunting any automatic firearm. This paragraph does not apply to:

(1) Military organizations authorized by law to bear arms or to the National Guard in the performance of its duty. [PL 2017, c. 164, §11 (AMD).]

B. Use for hunting or possess for hunting any autoloading firearm having a magazine capacity of more than 5 cartridges. All autoloading firearms having a magazine capacity in excess of 5 cartridges must have the magazine permanently altered to contain not more than 5 cartridges before the autoloading firearm may be used in this State for hunting. This paragraph does not apply to:

(1) Military organizations authorized by law to bear arms or to the National Guard in the performance of its duty; or

(2) Firearms using the .22 caliber rimfire cartridge or smaller caliber cartridge or to any autoloading pistol having a barrel less than 8 inches in length; [PL 2017, c. 164, §11 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2021, c. 112, §3 (RP).]

D. Use for hunting cartridges containing tracer bullets. This paragraph does not apply to:

(1) Military organizations authorized by law to bear arms or to the National Guard in the performance of its duty. [PL 2017, c. 164, §11 (AMD).]

E. Use for hunting cartridges containing explosive bullets. This paragraph does not apply to:

(1) Military organizations authorized by law to bear arms or to the National Guard in the performance of its duty. [PL 2017, c. 164, §11 (AMD).]

F. Hunt migratory game birds with a shotgun of any description originally capable of holding more than 3 shells, unless the shotgun's magazine has been cut off, altered or plugged with a one-piece

filler incapable of removal without disassembling the gun so as to reduce the capacity of the gun to not more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined. A person who violates this paragraph commits a civil violation. This paragraph does not apply to:

- (1) Military organizations authorized by law to bear arms or to the National Guard in the performance of its duty; [PL 2023, c. 431, §5 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]
- G. Hunt a wild animal or wild bird with a set bow; [PL 2015, c. 301, §15 (AMD).]
- H. Use for hunting or possess for hunting an arrow or a bolt having either an explosive or poisonous tip; [PL 2005, c. 477, §10 (AMD).]
- I. Allow duck decoys to remain in waters of Merrymeeting Bay at any time during the period from one hour after legal shooting time until one hour before legal shooting time the next day. A person who violates this paragraph commits a civil violation; [PL 2023, c. 431, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]
- J. Leave or allow to remain in waters of Merrymeeting Bay an artificial cover, that is, a "stationary blind," or parts of an artificial cover used for hunting purposes between one hour after legal shooting time and one hour before legal shooting time the next day. A person who violates this paragraph commits a civil violation; [PL 2023, c. 431, §7 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]
- K. Use a dog to hunt deer or moose, except as provided in section 11111 or 12862; [PL 2015, c. 90, §3 (AMD).]
- L. Use an artificial light, snare, trap or set gun to hunt deer or moose. This paragraph does not affect or restrict the legitimate possession and sale of flashlights or the lawful use of an artificial light to aid in the tracking of a wounded animal pursuant to section 11111 or 12862; [PL 2015, c. 90, §3 (AMD).]
- M. Use artificial lights between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise the next day to illuminate, jack, locate, attempt to locate or show up wild animals or wild birds from September 1st to December 15th of each calendar year. This paragraph does not affect chapter 921, any rule issued in accordance with section 10104, subsection 1 or the lawful use of an artificial light to aid in the tracking of a wounded animal pursuant to section 11111 or 12862; [PL 2015, c. 90, §3 (AMD).]
- N. Hunt a wild animal or wild bird by any method other than by the usual method of shooting with a firearm not larger than number 10-gauge, shooting with archery equipment or by falconry; [PL 2023, c. 239, §26 (AMD).]
- O. Possess a wild animal or wild bird taken in violation of this section, except as otherwise provided in this Part; [PL 2023, c. 239, §27 (AMD).]
- P. Use a bow and arrow to hunt deer, bear or moose unless:
- (1) For hunting deer and bear, the minimum draw weight of the bow is 35 pounds;
 - (2) For hunting moose, the minimum draw weight of the bow is 45 pounds; and
 - (3) The arrowhead, including mechanical broadheads when open, is at least 7/8 inch in width; or [PL 2023, c. 239, §28 (AMD).]
- Q. Use a crossbow to hunt unless:
- (1) The crossbow has a shoulder-type stock. A hand-held pistol-type crossbow may not be used;
 - (2) The draw weight of the crossbow is 100 pounds or more;
 - (3) For hunting deer, bear and moose, the arrowhead, including a mechanical broadhead when open, is at least 7/8 inch in width; and

(4) The crossbow is equipped with a mechanical trigger safety device in working condition.

A crossbow arrow that has an explosive or poisonous tip may not be used.

The crossbow may be equipped with a scope or sight. [PL 2023, c. 239, §29 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 239, §§26-29 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §§5-7 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

2. Penalty. Except as provided in subsection 1, paragraphs F, I and J, a person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime for which the sentencing alternative may include only the penalties provided in Title 17-A, section 1704, subsection 5 and Title 17-A, section 1705, subsection 5.

[PL 2023, c. 431, §8 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B146 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 419, §6 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 419, §12 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §10 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §27 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 90, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 262, §2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §§15-17 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 164, §11 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 112, §3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §§26-29 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §§5-8 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

§11215. Use of motorized vehicle to kill, injure or molest wild animals or wild birds

1. Prohibition. A person may not intentionally kill, injure or molest a wild animal or wild bird with a:

A. Motor vehicle; [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §147 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. Motorboat; or [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §147 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

C. Aircraft. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §147 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §147 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §147 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B147 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11216. Hunting with aid of aircraft

1. Prohibition on use of aircraft to hunt. A person on the ground or airborne may not use an aircraft to aid or assist in hunting:

A. Bear; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Deer; or [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. Moose. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 without the taking of a bear, deer or moose commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §148 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 and takes a bear, deer or moose commits a Class E crime for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than \$500, none of which may be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. A person who violates subsection 1 without the taking of a bear, deer or moose after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §149 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §§148, 149 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B148,149 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11217. Buying and selling wild animals and wild birds

1. Prohibition against buying and selling bear, deer, moose or wild turkey. Except as provided in subsection 2, a person may not:

A. Buy, sell or offer for sale or barter a:

(1) Bear;

(2) Deer;

(3) Moose; or

(4) Wild turkey; or [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §150 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. Aid in buying, selling or offering for sale or bartering a:

(1) Bear;

(2) Deer;

(3) Moose; or

(4) Wild turkey. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §150 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

C. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §150 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §150 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Exception. This subsection provides for exceptions to the prohibitions against the purchase, sale, offer for sale or barter of wild animals and wild birds under this section.

A. A person who has lawfully killed or trapped and registered a bear may sell, without a hide dealer's license, only the hide, head, teeth, claws not attached to the paws, fat not attached to the meat and gallbladder of that animal. [PL 2021, c. 54, §7 (AMD).]

B. A person who has lawfully killed and registered a deer may sell, without a hide dealer's license, only the hide, head, antlers and feet of that animal. [PL 2013, c. 333, §4 (RPR).]

C. A person may sell the head, hide, feet and antlers of a domesticated deer and the meat of a domesticated deer for use as food only in accordance with Title 7, chapter 202. [PL 2013, c. 333, §4 (RPR).]

D. A person who has lawfully killed and registered a moose may sell, without a hide dealer's license, only the hide, head, bones, antlers and feet of that animal. [PL 2013, c. 333, §4 (RPR).]

E. A person may buy or sell, without a hide dealer's license, naturally shed antlers from deer or moose. [PL 2013, c. 333, §4 (NEW).]

F. A person may buy or sell, without a taxidermy license or a hide dealer's license, legally obtained finished wildlife products, excluding federally protected wild animals and wild birds except in accordance with federal law. [PL 2013, c. 333, §4 (NEW).]

G. A person may buy, without a hide dealer's license, for that person's personal use and not for resale, only the teeth, claws not attached to paws, fat not attached to the meat, skull or head and hide of a bear; only the bones, feet and hide of a moose; the skull or head of a deer or moose, excluding antlers; and all other parts of wild animals and wild birds not prohibited from being bought, sold, offered for sale or bartered under subsections 1 and 3. [PL 2021, c. 54, §7 (AMD).]

H. A person who possesses a valid hide dealer's license may lawfully buy, sell, barter and trade for profit the parts of wild animals under paragraphs A, B and D, lawfully obtained raw, untanned animal hides and any parts of wild animals and wild birds not prohibited from being bought, sold, offered for sale or bartered under subsections 1 and 3. [PL 2013, c. 333, §4 (NEW).]

I. A person who has lawfully killed and registered a wild turkey may sell the plumage, wing bones, beard and lower legs of that animal. [PL 2021, c. 184, §6 (NEW).]

Parts permitted to be bought or sold under this subsection may not be attached to any other parts of the wild animals or wild birds that are prohibited from being bought, sold, offered for sale or bartered under subsections 1 and 3. Bear gallbladders and raw, unfinished deer and moose antlers must be tagged or accompanied with documentation containing the name and address of the person who lawfully killed the animal.

As used in this subsection, "hide dealer's license" means a license issued pursuant to section 12954. [PL 2021, c. 54, §7 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 184, §6 (AMD).]

3. Prohibition regarding selling of wild birds. A person may not sell or possess for sale a wild bird, except as provided in this Part. A person may sell the plumage of lawfully taken wild birds if that sale does not violate regulations of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

3-A. Prohibition on selling live wildlife. A person may not sell any live wildlife unless authorized pursuant to section 12152 and the commissioner's rules related to the unrestricted species list or as otherwise provided in this Part. [PL 2021, c. 184, §7 (NEW).]

4. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and not less than 20 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B150,151 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 333, §4 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 54, §7 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 184, §§6, 7 (AMD).

§11218. Game fees

A person may not charge any fee for access to land if the fee is contingent upon the taking of game on the land or directly related to the taking of game on the land unless the land is an authorized commercial shooting area licensed under section 12101. This section does not apply to: [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

1. Gate fees. Gate fees or other access fees that are unrelated to the taking of game; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Guiding fees. Fees charged by licensed guides or other fees that are unrelated to access to land; or
[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

3. Fees for placing bear bait. Fees that are directly related to the placing of bear bait on land.
[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§11219. Hunting on state game farm

1. Prohibition. A person may not hunt on a state game farm at any time.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B152 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11220. Hunting in licensed wildlife exhibit

1. Prohibition. A person may not hunt in a licensed wildlife exhibit at any time.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B152 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11221. Disposal of offal; littering

1. Prohibition. A person may not drop, deposit, discard, dump or otherwise dispose of a carcass, waste parts or remains of a wild animal, except waste parts or remains resulting from the normal field dressing of lawfully harvested wild game or the lawful use of waste parts or remains of wild game as bait.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. Additionally, a person who violates subsection 1 violates the Maine Litter Control Act, Title 17, chapter 80 and is subject to the penalties set forth in that Act. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §152 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B152 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11222. Target identification while hunting

1. Findings. Due to the large numbers of Maine citizens and visitors engaged in hunting in the State's woods during hunting season, the continued decline of unpopulated areas through the State, the widespread use of powerful weapons in the pursuit of wild animals and wild birds and the growing presence of nonhunters engaged in nonhunting activities in the State's woods during hunting season, the Legislature finds that a sufficient risk of serious bodily injury or death to human beings is posed to make it necessary and prudent to provide guidance to those in pursuit of wild animals and wild birds on the matter of proper target identification.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Target identification. While hunting, a hunter may not shoot at a target without, at that point in time, being certain that it is the wild animal or wild bird sought.

A. The target-determining process to be utilized is that which a reasonable and prudent hunter would observe in the same situation. A reasonable and prudent hunter always bears the risk of loss of legitimate prey to avoid the risk of the destruction of human life. A reasonable and prudent hunter neither disregards the risk of causing the death of another human being nor fails to be aware of that risk as a consequence of misidentification. A reasonable and prudent hunter never bases identification upon sound alone or even upon sound in combination with what appears to be an appendage of the wild animal or wild bird sought. A reasonable and prudent hunter, independent of these target-determining factors, bases identification upon obtaining an essentially unobstructed view of the head and torso of the potential target. This visual sighting is the most critical target-determining factor. Visual sighting of the head and torso may present itself intermittently or continuously. If presented intermittently, a reasonable and prudent hunter does not make a target-identification decision until this visual sighting exists at the point in time the hunter takes aim and is making final preparation to shoot. A reasonable and prudent hunter additionally recognizes that these sound and sight target-determining factors are affected by a number of other considerations, including, but not limited to, the distance to the target, surrounding or intervening terrain and cover, lighting and weather conditions, the hunter's own ability to hear and see, the hunter's own experience and the proximity of other persons in the hunter's immediate vicinity. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

3. Penalty.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §153 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B153 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11223. Aid to injured person and reporting hunting accident

1. Duty. A person who knows or has reason to know that that person has inflicted injury or may have inflicted injury on another person by the use of a firearm or archery equipment shall:

A. Make that person known to the victim; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Render first aid and assistance as that person is capable of rendering under the circumstances; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. Give notice of the event by the quickest means to a game warden or, in the event that a game warden cannot be contacted, to the law enforcement officer nearest the place where the event occurred. [PL 2023, c. 239, §30 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 239, §30 (AMD).]

2. Prohibition.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §154 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalty. A person who fails to aid an injured person or report a hunting accident in accordance with this section commits a Class C crime.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B154 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §11 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §30 (AMD).

§11224. Waste of game

1. Prohibition. A person may not waste a wild bird or wild animal that has been wounded or killed by that person while hunting. For purposes of this section, "waste" means to intentionally leave a wounded or killed animal in the field or forest without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and render it for consumption or use. This subsection does not apply to coyote.

[PL 2009, c. 550, §3 (AMD).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2007, c. 168, §5 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §11224. Alien big game hunter; guide required (As enacted by PL 2007, c. 454, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 12, SECTION 11226)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 168, §5 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 454, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §16 (RAL). PL 2009, c. 550, §3 (AMD).

§11225. Retrieval of wounded or killed big game after hours

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 168, §6 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 90, §4 (RP).

§11226. Alien big game hunter; guide required

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 12, SECTION 11224)

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §16 (RAL). PL 2009, c. 390, §1 (RP).

§11226-A. Canadian big game hunter; guide required**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 390, §2 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 561, §1 (RP).

§11226-B. Canadian big game hunter; guide required

1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Big game" means bear, deer and moose. [PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Canadian border province resident" means a nonresident who is not a citizen of the United States and is a resident of the Canadian province of New Brunswick or Quebec. [PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Family member" means a parent, spouse, child or a grandchild who is less than 18 years of age. [RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §76 (COR).]

[RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §76 (COR).]

2. Prohibition. Except as provided in this subsection, a Canadian border province resident may not hunt big game or wild turkey without being accompanied by a person who holds a valid guide license pursuant to chapter 927 authorizing that person to act as a hunting guide. The commissioner may authorize a Canadian border province resident and that person's family members to hunt big game or wild turkey without being in the presence of a guide if the Canadian border province resident:

A. Owns or leases land in the State; [PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

B. Is current on property taxes assessed for the land owned in the State; and [PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

C. Keeps property owned or leased in the State open for hunting by the public. [PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

A Canadian border province resident who wishes to hunt big game or wild turkey without a guide must, at the time of application for a hunting license or permit to hunt big game or wild turkey, provide documentation to the commissioner that that person meets the requirements of this subsection. Upon determining that the applicant meets the criteria in this subsection and the applicant is not otherwise ineligible to hold a license or permit under this Part, the commissioner shall issue written authorization to hunt big game or wild turkey without a guide to that Canadian border province resident and that person's family members who are Canadian border province residents and who hold a valid license to hunt big game or wild turkey in the State.

[PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

3. Penalty. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates subsection 2 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 87, §1 (NEW). RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §76 (COR).

§11227. Placement of bait for hunting

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Bait" means an animal or plant or a part of an animal or plant used to attract wild animals for the purpose of hunting. "Bait" does not include:

(1) A derivative of an animal or plant in a liquid or paste form, including but not limited to urine or commercially prepared lures or scents; or

(2) Packaging or container materials that fall within the definition of "litter" under Title 17, section 2263, subsection 2. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Bait site" means the place where the bait has been placed and the immediate surrounding area. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

1-A. Prohibited bait. Notwithstanding any authorization to use or place bait or bear bait under this Part, a person may not place a medicinal, poisonous or stupefying substance to entice an animal to that place. A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2015, c. 301, §18 (NEW).]

2. Placement of bait. A person may not place or hunt over bait without the oral or written permission of the landowner or the landowner's agent. The bait site must be plainly labeled with a 2-inch-by-4-inch tag identifying the name and address of the person establishing the bait site. This subsection does not apply to bear baiting, which is governed by section 11301.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 432, §1 (AMD).]

3. Hunting over another's bait. A person may not hunt at a bait site established by another person unless that person has permission from the person that established the bait site.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

4. Bait site cleanup. A person placing bait may not leave the bait or bait label at the bait site and must clean up the bait site immediately after the landowner requests the removal of that bait or, if not requested by the landowner, within 20 days from the last day the bait site was hunted over by the person that established the bait site.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

5. Litter at bait sites. A person establishing a bait site under this section is subject to the littering provisions of Title 17, chapter 80. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

6. Construction. Nothing in this section authorizes hunting of wild animals that is otherwise prohibited by law or rule. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

7. Applicability. This section does not apply to:

A. Bear baiting under section 11301; or [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

B. Placing of bait on the ice of inland waters. [PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 70, §1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 432, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §18 (AMD).

§11228. Hunting with dogs

1. Collar required. A person may not hunt with a dog in pursuit of bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon unless the dog has a collar with a functioning global positioning system tracker and a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of that dog. For purposes of this subsection, "global positioning system tracker" means an electronic device that allows a person hunting with a dog to track the dog's location at all times.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2011, c. 432, §2 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2011, c. 432, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 580, §8 (AMD).]

2. Limit on number of dogs. A person or persons may not use more than 6 dogs at any one time to hunt coyotes, foxes, raccoons or bobcats. A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime. [PL 2021, c. 580, §9 (AMD).]

3. Night hunting with dogs. A person may not use a dog to hunt coyotes during the period from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime. [PL 2011, c. 432, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 432, §2 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 580, §§8, 9 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 5

BEAR HUNTING

ARTICLE 1

BEAR SEASONS

§11251. Open and closed seasons

1. Open season on bear; commissioner's authority. This subsection governs the open and closed seasons on bear.

A. The commissioner shall by rule establish an open season on hunting bear beginning no earlier than the 2nd Monday preceding September 1st and ending no later than November 30th annually. The commissioner may, pursuant to section 10104, subsection 1, adopt rules prohibiting the use of bait or a dog or dogs to hunt black bear during any portion of the open bear hunting season. [PL 2021, c. 100, §5 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

B. There is an open season on using a dog or dogs in conjunction with bear hunting during the open season on hunting bear established by the commissioner in accordance with paragraph A. [PL 2021, c. 100, §5 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

C. [PL 2013, c. 408, §14 (RP).]

D. [PL 2013, c. 408, §14 (RP).]

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2021, c. 100, §5 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

2. Youth bear hunting day.

[PL 2017, c. 164, §12 (RP).]

3. Youth bear hunting day. The commissioner may establish by rule a youth hunting day for hunting bear.

[PL 2017, c. 357, §1 (NEW).]

Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2017, c. 357, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B155 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 408, §14 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 79, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 164, §12 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 357, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §5 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).

ARTICLE 2

HUNTING METHODS SPECIFIC TO BEAR

§11301. Placing of bear bait

1. Bear baiting; penalty. A person may not place bait to entice, hunt or trap black bear, unless:

A. The bait is placed at least 50 yards from a travel way that is accessible by a conventional 2-wheel-drive or 4-wheel-drive vehicle; [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

B. The stand, blind or bait area is plainly labeled with a 2-inch-by-4-inch tag with the name and address of the baiter; [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

C. The bait is placed more than 500 yards from a site permitted or licensed for the disposal of solid waste or a campground; [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

D. The bait is placed more than 500 yards from an occupied dwelling, unless written permission is granted by the owner or lessee; [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

E. The bait is placed not more than 30 days before the opening day of the season, and not more than 30 days before the first Monday preceding September 1st and not after October 31st; [PL 2021, c. 100, §6 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

F. The bait areas will be cleaned up by November 10th, as defined by the state litter laws; and [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

G. The person hunting from a stand or blind of another person has permission of the owner of that stand or blind. [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §9 (RPR).]

A person may not use bait to hunt or trap black bear without the oral or written permission of the landowner.

A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation.
[PL 2023, c. 431, §9 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

1-A. Prohibitions; penalty. During the open season on hunting bear, a person may not within 50 yards of a bait site established by another person in accordance with section 11227 without the written permission of the person who established the bait site:

A. Hunt, trap, molest or harass bear or release a dog or dogs for the purpose of hunting bear or training dogs to hunt bear.

A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class E crime for which the sentencing alternative may include only the penalties provided in Title 17-A, section 1704, subsection 5 and Title 17-A, section 1705, subsection 5; or [PL 2023, c. 431, §9 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

B. Disturb the bait site through the use of chemicals or take other action intended to interfere with the hunting of bear at the bait site by the person who established the bait site.

A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class E crime for which the sentencing alternative may include only the penalties provided in Title 17-A, section 1704, subsection 5 and Title 17-A, section 1705, subsection 5. [PL 2023, c. 431, §9 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]
[PL 2023, c. 431, §9 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

2. Penalty.

[PL 2023, c. 431, §9 (RP); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B156,157 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 253, §19 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 432, §3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §9 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 280, §6 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §6 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 431, §9 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

§11302. Hunting bear with dogs

1. Limit on number of dogs. A person may not, while either hunting alone or hunting with other persons, use more than 6 dogs at any one time to hunt bear.
[PL 2009, c. 550, §4 (AMD).]

2. Nonresidents hunting with dogs. A nonresident may not hunt bear with the use of a dog or dogs unless that nonresident employs and hunts in the presence of a resident Maine guide. For purposes of this subsection, "in the presence of" means in visual and voice contact without the use of visual or audio enhancement devices, including but not limited to binoculars, citizen band radios or electronic communication systems.

A. The total number of clients with a resident Maine guide may not be more than 5 in order to satisfy the requirements of this subsection. [PL 2009, c. 390, §3 (AMD).]

This subsection does not apply to nonresidents who hold a valid Maine guide license. [PL 2013, c. 280, §7 (AMD).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation. [PL 2023, c. 431, §10 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B158 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 390, §3 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 550, §4 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 280, §7 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §10 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

§11303. Hunting bear near dumps

1. Dump demarcation. The commissioner, or the commissioner's agent, shall establish a line of demarcation at least 500 yards from sites permitted or licensed for the disposal of solid waste. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §159 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Prohibition. A person may not within the area described in subsection 1:

- A. Hunt bear; [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
- B. Trap bear; [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
- C. Molest or harass a bear; or [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
- D. Release dogs for the purpose of hunting a bear. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

The commissioner, or the commissioner's agent, is exempt from this prohibition for the purpose of live-trapping nuisance bears.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 2 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §160 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B159,160 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11304. Permission to harvest another person's bear

A person may not, without the permission of the person conducting the hunt, kill or wound a bear that is treed or held at bay by another person's dog or dogs. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §161 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B161 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11305. Unlawful firearms for hunting bear

1. Prohibition. A person may not use a .17 or .22 caliber rimfire firearm or a shotgun using shot loads to hunt bear.

[PL 2015, c. 301, §19 (NEW).]

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

[PL 2015, c. 301, §19 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 301, §19 (NEW).

ARTICLE 3

POSSESSION OF BEAR

§11351. Bear bag limit

The commissioner shall establish by rule limits on the number of bears a person may hunt, trap and possess in a season, which may not exceed 2 bears in total and may not exceed one bear by trapping in a calendar year, except a person may keep more than 2 legally obtained bears in that person's home as otherwise provided in law or rule. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2021, c. 100, §7 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

1. Hunting or trapping bear; limit. A person may not in one calendar year:

A. Hunt bear after that person has killed or registered the least of:

(1) Two bears by means of hunting;

(2) One bear by means of hunting and one by means of trapping during the open season on trapping bear under section 12260; and

(3) The maximum number established by rule under this section; or [PL 2021, c. 100, §7 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

B. Trap bear after that person has killed or registered the least of:

(1) Two bears by means of hunting;

(2) One bear by means of trapping during the open season on trapping bear under section 12260; and

(3) The maximum number established by rule under this section. [PL 2021, c. 100, §7 (NEW); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

The daily bag limit on bear taken by hunting is one bear.

[PL 2021, c. 100, §7 (RPR); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

2. Exceeding limit on bear. A person may not possess more than 2 bears in any calendar year, or the maximum number of bears established by rule under this section, whichever is less, except a person

may keep more than 2 legally obtained bears in that person's home or as otherwise provided in law or rule.

[PL 2021, c. 100, §7 (RPR); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense; the court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000.

[PL 2021, c. 100, §7 (RPR); PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §4 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B162-164 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B422,C2,6 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 309, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 100, §7 (RPR). PL 2021, c. 100, §13 (AFF).

§11352. Bear tags and tagging bear

1. Bear tags. The commissioner shall prescribe the form and content of and produce a bear tag.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §165 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Tagging. Prior to presenting a bear for registration, a person may not possess or leave in the field or forest a bear killed by that person unless the bear has securely attached to it a plainly visible tag that conforms to the requirements established under this section.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §165 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §165 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 2 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §165 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §165 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B165 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11353. Leaving harvested bear

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B166 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11354. Possessing gift bear

A person may not possess any part or parts of a bear given to that person unless that gift bear is plainly labeled with the name of the person who registered it and the year the bear was registered by that person. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §167 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

1. Person who registered.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §167 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Recipient.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §167 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Transporter.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §167 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §167 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B167 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

SUBCHAPTER 6

DEER HUNTING

ARTICLE 1

DEER SEASONS

§11401. Open and closed seasons for deer

1. Open and closed seasons. This subsection applies to open and closed seasons for deer.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and sections 10952, 11152, 11403 and 11404 or by rule adopted by the commissioner pursuant to section 11402, subsection 4, there is an open season for deer in each calendar year in all counties of the State between September 15th and December 20th annually. In a year that the regular season extends beyond November 30th, the regular season must start no later than the 4th Monday preceding Thanksgiving. [PL 2009, c. 134, §1 (AMD).]

B. The commissioner may shorten the open season on deer in any part of the State, as long as:

(1) The demarcation of the areas with the shortened season follows recognizable physical boundaries, such as rivers and railroad rights-of-way; and

(3) The Saturday preceding the first day of open season on deer is an open day for residents of the State and for nonresidents who meet the qualifications under paragraph E. [PL 2017, c. 164, §13 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2013, c. 408, §15 (RP).]

D. [PL 2013, c. 408, §15 (RP).]

E. Notwithstanding paragraph B, subparagraph (3), a nonresident who owns 25 or more acres of land in the State and leaves that property open to hunting, holds a valid hunting license and is not otherwise prohibited by law may hunt deer on the Saturday preceding the first day of open season on deer.

[PL 2017, c. 356, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B168 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 134, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 408, §15 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 401, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 164, §13 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 356, §1 (AMD).

§11402. Special regulations

1. Vinalhaven; open season. There is an open season on deer in the Town of Vinalhaven, and the islands within the confines of the Town of Vinalhaven, to conform with the open season on deer for Knox County.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Southport; open season. There is an open season on deer in the Town of Southport, and the islands within the confines of the Town of Southport, to conform with the open season on deer in Lincoln County.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

3. Closed season. Except as provided by rule pursuant to subsection 4, there is a continual closed season on deer in the following places:

A. Mount Desert Island; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Cross Island in Washington County; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. Scotch Island in Washington County; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

D. The Town of Isle au Haut and the islands within the confines of the Town of Isle au Haut in Knox County; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

E. All of Swans Island in the Town of Swan's Island in Hancock County; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

F. The Town of Islesboro in Waldo County, except that a person may hunt deer in that town with bow and arrow from the first day of the special archery season on deer, established in accordance with section 11403, subsection 2, to the end of the regular firearm season on deer of each calendar year in Waldo County; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

G. The whole of Cranberry Isles in Hancock County, except that a person may hunt deer in the Cranberry Isles with a shotgun or bow in accordance with applicable laws and rules; and [PL 2023, c. 239, §31 (AMD).]

H. The whole of Long Island in Long Island Plantation in Hancock County. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2023, c. 239, §31 (AMD).]

4. Rule. The commissioner by rule may:

A. Open any of the areas closed to deer hunting under subsection 3, as long as the legislative body of each affected town approves the opening. For purposes of this subsection, "affected town" means a town, township or municipality that contains within its borders any area proposed to be opened under this paragraph; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Create special hunting seasons for the taking of deer in any part of the State to maintain deer populations in balance with available habitat, subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

(1) The demarcation of each area must follow recognizable physical boundaries, such as rivers, roads and railroad rights-of-way.

(3) The commissioner may establish limits on the number of deer taken or possessed by persons during a special season. Limits established by the commissioner under this subparagraph are exceptions to the limits imposed under section 11501.

(4) The commissioner may specify types of weapons to be used during a special season; and [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §169 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

C. Establish a 2-day youth deer hunting period, to be held on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Saturday designated as an open day for residents of the State pursuant to section 11401. [PL 2023, c. 593, §2 (AMD).]

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2023, c. 593, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B169 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 239, §31 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 593, §2 (AMD).

§11403. Regular archery-only deer hunting season

1. License required.

[PL 2015, c. 301, §20 (RP).]

2. Open archery season on deer. The commissioner shall by rule establish a regular archery season beginning at least 30 days prior and extending to the beginning of the regular deer hunting season, as described in section 11401, subsection 1, paragraph A, for the purpose of hunting deer with archery equipment. During the regular archery season on deer the following restrictions apply.

A. A person may not take a deer during a regular archery season unless that person uses a hand-held bow and broadhead arrow in accordance with section 11214, subsection 1, paragraph P or a crossbow in accordance with section 11214, subsection 1, paragraph Q. [PL 2023, c. 239, §32 (AMD).]

B. A person may not carry firearms of any kind while hunting any species of wildlife with archery equipment during the regular archery season on deer. This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit a person from carrying a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 25, section 2001-A. [PL 2023, c. 239, §32 (AMD).]

C. Except as provided in section 11109-A, subsection 3, if a person takes a deer with archery equipment during the regular archery season on deer, that person is precluded from further hunting for deer during that year except as otherwise provided in law or rule. [PL 2023, c. 239, §32 (AMD).]

D. Except as provided in this subsection, the provisions of this Part concerning deer are applicable to the taking of deer with archery equipment, including the transportation, registration and possession of deer taken by these methods. [PL 2023, c. 239, §32 (AMD).]

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

[PL 2023, c. 239, §32 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B170 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 163, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 163, §3 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 61, §4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 298, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 538, §28 (AMD). RR 2015, c. 2, §7 (COR). PL 2015, c. 301, §§20, 21 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 357,

§2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 325, §5 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 599, §12 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 239, §32 (AMD).

§11404. Muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season

1. Muzzle-loading-only open season on deer.

[PL 2005, c. 280, §1 (RP).]

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

- A. A muzzleloader as defined in section 10001, subsection 42-A that is 40 caliber or greater and capable of firing only a single charge; [PL 2005, c. 280, §2 (NEW).]
- B. A muzzle-loading shotgun as defined in section 10001, subsection 42-B; or [PL 2005, c. 280, §2 (NEW).]
- C. A traditional muzzleloader as defined in section 10001, subsection 62-A that uses projectiles that are 40 caliber or greater or that uses buckshot. [PL 2005, c. 280, §2 (NEW).]

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

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

[PL 2005, c. 280, §2 (NEW).]

2. Applicability of laws. The following provisions apply during the muzzle-loading open season.

- A. The commissioner's authority to regulate the harvest of antlerless deer under section 11152 is applicable during the muzzle-loading hunting season. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
- B. Deer tags for the muzzle-loading open season must be issued for use in the same manner as regular deer tags. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
- C. Except as provided in this section, the provisions of this Part relating to deer apply to the taking of deer with muzzle-loading firearms. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §4 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 280, §§1,2 (AMD).

ARTICLE 2

HUNTING METHODS SPECIFIC TO DEER

§11451. Hunting deer with unconventional weapon; license

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §5 (RP). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§11452. Baiting deer

1. Prohibitions. A person may not, during an open hunting season on deer:

A. Place salt or any other bait or food in a place to entice deer to that place; or [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Hunt from an observation stand or blind overlooking salt, grain, fruit, nuts or other foods known to be attractive to deer. This prohibition does not apply to hunting from an observation stand or blind overlooking:

(1) Standing crops;

(2) Foods that are left as a result of normal agricultural operations or as a result of a natural occurrence; or

(3) Bear bait that is placed at a bear hunting stand or blind in accordance with section 11301, subsection 1. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §171 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 may be adjudged.

[PL 2019, c. 630, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B171 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 630, §3 (AMD).

§11453. Driving deer

1. Unlawfully driving deer. A person may not participate in a hunt for deer during which an organized or planned effort is made to drive deer. For purposes of this subsection, 4 or more persons working together to move deer constitutes an organized or planned effort to drive deer.

[PL 2013, c. 408, §16 (AMD).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 408, §16 (AMD).

§11454. Hunting deer with .22 caliber rimfire cartridge

1. Prohibition. A person may not hunt deer with any firearms using a .17 or .22 caliber rimfire cartridge, except that the use of the .22 caliber rimfire magnum cartridge is not prohibited.

[PL 2005, c. 477, §12 (AMD).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of subsection 1.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §172 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §172 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §172 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B172 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §12 (AMD).

ARTICLE 3

POSSESSION OF DEER

§11501. Bag limit

1. Exceeding bag limit. A person may not possess more than one deer during any open season, except a person may keep more than one legally obtained deer in that person's home at any time or as otherwise provided in law.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §5 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

2. Hunting deer after having killed one. A person may not hunt deer after that person has killed or registered one during the open season of that calendar year, except as otherwise provided in law or rule.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §5 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended; the court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §5 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§C2,6 (AFF).

§11502. Deer tags and tagging

1. Deer tags. The commissioner shall prescribe the form and content of and produce a deer tag.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §173 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Tagging. Prior to presenting a deer for registration, a person may not possess or leave in the field or forest a deer killed by that person unless the deer has securely attached to it a plainly visible tag that conforms to the requirements established under this section.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §173 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §173 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 2 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §173 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §173 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B173 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11503. Gift deer

A person may not possess any part or parts of a deer given to that person unless that gift deer is plainly labeled with the name of the person who registered it and the year the deer was registered by that person. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §174 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

1. Registration seal.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §174 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Person who registered deer.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §174 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalty.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §174 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §174 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B174 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

SUBCHAPTER 7**MOOSE HUNTING****ARTICLE 1****COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY TO REGULATE MOOSE HUNTING AND TO SET HUNTING SEASONS AND AREAS****§11551. Commissioner authority regarding moose**

The commissioner may issue applications for moose hunting permits, issue permits and make all rules pertaining to moose hunting permits, including provisions for the permittees who are selected for a permit but unable to use the permit. The commissioner may make all other rules that the commissioner considers necessary for the protection of the moose resource. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §175 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B175 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11552. Moose hunting areas

1. Areas open to moose hunting. The commissioner may designate by rule areas of the State open to moose hunting.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Moose management. To effectively manage the moose herd in the State, the commissioner may by rule establish:

A. The number of moose permits to be issued every year, including a percentage for antlerless moose; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. The length of the moose hunting season; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. The timing of the moose hunting season. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

Rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2023, c. 228, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 228, §9 (AMD).

ARTICLE 2

HUNTING METHODS SPECIFIC TO MOOSE

§11601. Unlawful hunting of moose

1. Hunting with permittee. A person may not hunt moose with a permittee unless that person is a subpermittee authorized in accordance with this section.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Presence of permittee. A subpermittee may not hunt moose if that subpermittee is not in the presence of the permittee while hunting moose. A subpermittee is not in the presence of a permittee if contact between the permittee and the subpermittee requires visual or audio enhancement devices, including binoculars or citizen band radios.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

3. One subpermittee. A permittee may not hunt moose with more than one authorized subpermittee.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

4. Unlawful possession. A person may not possess a moose that has been hunted in violation of this section.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §176 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 552, §6 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §6 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B176 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B422,C2,6 (AFF).

§11602. Driving moose

A person may not participate in a hunt for moose during which an organized or planned effort is made to drive moose. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§11603. Unlawful firearms for hunting moose

1. Prohibition. A person may not use a .17 or .22 caliber rimfire firearm or a shotgun using shot loads to hunt moose.

[PL 2013, c. 236, §4 (AMD).]

1-A. Hunting moose with a crossbow; 70 years of age or older.

[PL 2013, c. 236, §5 (RP).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of subsection 1.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §177 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §177 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §177 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B177 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 477, §13 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 61, §5 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 236, §§4, 5 (AMD).

§11604. Unlawful hunting methods

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B177 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 117, §1 (RP).

§11605. Baiting moose

1. Prohibitions. From September 1st to December 15th a person may not:

A. Place salt or any other bait or food in a place to entice moose to that place; or [PL 2011, c. 253, §20 (NEW).]

B. Hunt from an observation stand or blind overlooking salt, grain, fruit, nuts or other foods known to be attractive to moose. This prohibition does not apply to hunting over:

(1) Standing crops; or

(2) Foods that are left as a result of normal agricultural operations or as a result of a natural occurrence. [PL 2015, c. 301, §22 (AMD).]

[PL 2015, c. 301, §22 (AMD).]

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

[PL 2011, c. 253, §20 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 253, §20 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 301, §22 (AMD).

ARTICLE 3

POSSESSION OF MOOSE

§11651. Unlawful possession of moose

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §7 (RP). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§C2,6 (AFF).

§11651-A. Hunting moose after having killed one

A person may not hunt moose after that person has killed or registered one during the open season of that calendar year, except as otherwise provided. [PL 2003, c. 552, §8 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 552, §8 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 552, §8 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§C2,6 (AFF).

§11652. Bag limits

1. One moose per permit holder. A person may not exceed the bag limit of one moose per permit holder. In the case of a permittee and a subpermittee, the permit allows one of them to take one moose. Except as provided in sections 12401 and 12402, a person may not shoot more than one moose in a calendar year. A person may keep more than one legally obtained moose in that person's home at any time.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Possession. A person may not possess a moose in violation of this section.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class D crime for which the court shall impose a sentencing alternative of not less than 3 days for the first offense, none of which may be suspended, and of not less than 10 days for each succeeding offense, none of which may be suspended; the court also shall impose a fine of not less than \$1,000, none of which may be suspended.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B178 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11653. Tagging moose

1. Tags. The commissioner shall prescribe the form and content of and produce moose tags.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Tagging. Prior to presenting a moose for registration, a person may not possess or leave in the field or forest a moose killed by that person unless the moose has securely attached to it a plainly visible tag that conforms to the requirements established under this section.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of subsection 2.

A. A person who violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 2 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B178 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11654. Unlawful possession of gift moose

A person may not possess any part or parts of a moose given to that person unless that gift moose is plainly labeled with the name of the person who registered it and the year the moose was registered by that person. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

1. Prohibition.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalty.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §178 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B178 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

SUBCHAPTER 8**WILD TURKEY HUNTING****ARTICLE 1****COMMISSIONER'S AUTHORITY TO REGULATE THE HUNTING OF WILD TURKEY;
HUNTING LAWS****§11701. Authority of commissioner; wild turkey hunting**

The commissioner may establish open seasons for hunting wild turkeys, designate areas that are open to the taking of wild turkeys in any part of the State, prescribe the form and regulate the number of permits to be issued, determine the number and sex of the birds to be harvested, establish bag limits, establish permit eligibility requirements, establish legal hunting times, specify the types of weapons to be used during any open wild turkey hunting season and make any other rules that the commissioner considers necessary for the protection of the wild turkey resource. The rules must permit the use of a crossbow during an open season for hunting wild turkey as established by the commissioner. [PL 2021, c. 599, §13 (AMD).]

1. Spring season.

[PL 2017, c. 85, §3 (RP).]

2. Fall seasons.

[PL 2017, c. 85, §3 (RP).]

3. Youth day. The commissioner shall establish by rule a spring youth hunting day for hunting wild turkeys from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. The day must be the Saturday prior to the opening of the first open season for hunting wild turkeys established by the commissioner in that year.

[PL 2017, c. 85, §3 (AMD).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than \$500, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of \$500 for each turkey unlawfully possessed, none of which may be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §179 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §9 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B179 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B422,C2,6 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 236, §6 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 387, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 127, §6 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 127, §§4, 5 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 85, §3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 98, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 599, §13 (AMD).

§11702. Wild turkey hunting hours

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §10 (RP). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§C2,6 (AFF).

ARTICLE 2**POSSESSION OF WILD TURKEYS****§11751. Unlawful possession of wild turkey**

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B180 (RP). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11751-A. Unlawful possession of wild turkeys

1. Possession of wild turkeys. A person may not possess a wild turkey taken in violation of any rule adopted by the commissioner under section 11701.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §11 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

2. Exceeding bag limit. A person may not possess more than the number of wild turkey allowed by rule during any open season, except a person may keep legally obtained wild turkey in that person's home at any time or as otherwise provided in law or rule.

[PL 2017, c. 85, §4 (AMD).]

3. Hunting wild turkey after having killed maximum. A person may not hunt wild turkey after that person has killed or registered the maximum number of wild turkey allowed by rule during that season.

[PL 2017, c. 85, §4 (AMD).]

4. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 552, §11 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 2 or 3 commits a Class E crime for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than \$500, none of which may be suspended. The court also shall impose a fine of \$500 for each wild turkey unlawfully possessed, none of which may be suspended. [PL 2003, c. 552, §11 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 552, §11 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 552, §11 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§2,6 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 85, §4 (AMD).

§11752. Tagging wild turkey

1. Tags. The commissioner shall prescribe the form and content of and produce wild turkey tags. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §181 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Tagging. Except as provided in section 12307, prior to presenting a wild turkey for registration, a person may not possess or leave in the field or forest a wild turkey killed by that person unless the wild turkey has securely attached to it a plainly visible tag that conforms to the requirements established under this section.

[PL 2021, c. 121, §1 (AMD).]

3. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §181 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 2 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §181 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §181 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B181 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 121, §1 (AMD).

§11753. Gift wild turkey

A person may not possess any part or parts of a wild turkey given to that person unless that gift wild turkey is labeled with the name of the person who registered it and the year the wild turkey was registered by that person. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §182 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §182 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B182 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

ARTICLE 3

HUNTING METHODS SPECIFIC TO WILD TURKEYS

§11801. Prohibited hunting methods

1. Unlawful hunting of wild turkey. A person may not hunt wild turkeys in violation of rules adopted under section 11701.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §183 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Unlawful methods of hunting wild turkey. A person may not:

A. Employ the use of a dog or dogs in any manner while hunting wild turkeys except during the fall wild turkey hunting season; [PL 2009, c. 550, §5 (AMD).]

B. Engage in an organized drive of any manner while hunting wild turkeys; or [PL 2015, c. 301, §23 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2015, c. 301, §24 (RP).]

D. Use a trap or other device intended or designed for the purpose of capturing or ensnaring wild turkeys. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
[PL 2015, c. 301, §§23, 24 (AMD).]

3. Penalties. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 552, §12 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§2, 6 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 552, §12 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 552, §15 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B183 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B422,C2,6 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 550, §5 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §§23, 24 (AMD).

§11802. Baiting wild turkeys

1. Prohibitions. From September 1st to December 15th and during the first open wild turkey hunting season established by the commissioner in that year pursuant to section 11701, a person may not:

A. Place any bait or food in a place to entice a wild turkey to that place; or [PL 2015, c. 301, §25 (NEW).]

B. Hunt from an observation stand or blind overlooking bait or food known to be attractive to wild turkey. This prohibition does not apply to hunting from an observation stand or blind overlooking:

(1) Standing crops; or

(2) Foods that are left as a result of normal agricultural operations or as a result of a natural occurrence. [PL 2015, c. 301, §25 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 85, §5 (AMD).]

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

[PL 2015, c. 301, §25 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 301, §25 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 85, §5 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 9

GAME BIRD HUNTING

§11851. Hunting or trapping wild birds

1. Unlawfully hunting or trapping wild birds. A person may not hunt or trap a wild bird, other than the English or European house sparrow, the rock pigeon, also known as the rock dove, and the European starling, except as provided in this Part.

[PL 2019, c. 355, §4 (AMD).]

2. Unlawful possession of wild birds. A person may not possess, alive or dead, a wild bird, other than the English or European house sparrow, the rock pigeon, also known as the rock dove, and the European starling, except as provided in this Part.

[PL 2019, c. 355, §4 (AMD).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §184 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B184 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 280, §8 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §26 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 355, §4 (AMD).

§11852. Reopening season

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 280, §9 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 408, §17 (RP). PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §15 (RP).

§11853. Closed season; Haley Pond

1. Prohibition. A person may not hunt waterfowl on Haley Pond in the Town of Rangeley and Dallas Plantation in the County of Franklin.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B185 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11854. Nest or eggs of wild birds

A person may not take, possess or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of a wild bird, except the English or European house sparrow, the rock pigeon, also known as the rock dove, and the European starling. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2019, c. 355, §5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 280, §10 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 355, §5 (AMD).

§11855. Unlawful use of migratory game birds

1. Prohibition. Unless specifically permitted by regulations of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 United States Code, Sections 703 to 712, or by rules adopted by the commissioner in conformity with Title 5, Part 18, except section 8052, subsection 3 of that Title, a person may not:

A. Hunt migratory game birds; [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. Possess migratory game birds; [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

C. Transport migratory game birds; or [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

D. Buy or sell migratory game birds. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §185 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B185 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11856. Pheasants

The commissioner shall establish by rule a hunting season for male pheasants that disallows the taking of female pheasants in certain areas of the State. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. A person may not take a female pheasant in an area subject to the provisions of this section. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §186 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B186 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11857. Unlawful possession of ruffed grouse

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 280, §11 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 538, §29 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 54, §8 (RP).

SUBCHAPTER 9-A**UPLAND GAME SPECIES HUNTING****§11871. Unlawful possession of upland game species**

1. Daily bag limit. On any given day, a person may not take more than the daily bag limit of an upland game species as established by the commissioner.

[PL 2021, c. 54, §9 (NEW).]

2. Possession limit. A person may not possess more than the possession limit of an upland game species as established by the commissioner.

[PL 2021, c. 54, §9 (NEW).]

3. Penalty. A person who violates this section commits a Class E crime for which a fine of not less than \$200 plus \$50 for each upland game species taken in violation may be adjudged.

[PL 2021, c. 54, §9 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 54, §9 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 10

RACCOON HUNTING

§11901. Raccoons

1. Open season. An open season for hunting raccoons established by the commissioner must be of uniform duration throughout the State.

[PL 2003, c. 592, §4 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

2. Night hunting. Notwithstanding the night hunting prohibition in section 11206, raccoons may be hunted at night during an open season established pursuant to this section.

[PL 2003, c. 592, §4 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. C, §§5, 6 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 592, §4 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 592, §5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§C5,6 (AFF).

SUBCHAPTER 11

HARE AND RABBIT HUNTING

§11951. Hunting hares and rabbits with dogs

A person may use a dog to hunt, or may be accompanied by a dog while hunting, wild hares or rabbits during the open firearm season on deer. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §187 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B187 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§11952. Unlawful harvest of wild rabbits or hares

1. Prohibition. A person may not:

A. Set or use any snare, trap or other device in the hunting of wild hares or rabbits, except that trappers may take wild hares or rabbits by box traps solely for the purpose of selling them to the commissioner as authorized by this Title; or [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Hunt wild hares or rabbits in any manner except by the ordinary method of shooting with guns, archery equipment or by falconry. [PL 2023, c. 239, §33 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 239, §33 (AMD).]

2. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §188 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B188 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 239, §33 (AMD).

§11953. Unlawful possession of wild hares or wild rabbits

1. Unlawful possession; closed season. A person may not possess a wild hare or rabbit taken during the closed season.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §189 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §189 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §189 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Unlawful possession; prohibited method or device. A person may not possess a wild hare or wild rabbit taken by any method or with any device prohibited by section 11952, subsection 1 or section 12252, subsection 2, paragraph A, B or C.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §189 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §189 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §189 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 655, §B189 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

SUBCHAPTER 12

COYOTE HUNTING

§12001. Night season and restrictions

1. Coyote hunting. Notwithstanding the night hunting prohibitions in section 11206, there is an open season for hunting coyotes at night in all counties of the State from December 16th to August 31st.

Notwithstanding section 11214, subsection 1, paragraph M, the commissioner may appoint agents to hunt for coyotes at night using artificial illumination from September 1st to December 15th. The commissioner shall develop policies to make the affected public and affected law enforcement officers aware of any night hunting operations.

[PL 2011, c. 216, §1 (AMD).]

2. Night; hunting hours.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §190 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Calling devices required. A person may not hunt coyotes at night without possessing an electronic, hand-held or mouth-operated predator calling device.

A person who hunts coyotes in violation of this subsection commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §190 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B190 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 242, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 46, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 550, §6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 216, §1 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 13

HUNTING DOG TRAINING AND FIELD TRAINING

§12051. Training

(CONTAINS TEXT WITH VARYING EFFECTIVE DATES)

1. Open training season. Unless otherwise provided in this Part, a person may not train dogs on wild birds and wild animals except as follows.

A. A person may train dogs on foxes, snowshoe hare, gray squirrels, red squirrels and raccoons from July 1st through the following March 31st, including Sundays. [PL 2023, c. 134, §1 (AMD).]

B. A person may train sporting dogs on wild birds at any time, including Sundays. [PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §16 (RPR).]

C. A resident may train up to 6 dogs at any one time on bear from July 1st to the 4th day preceding the open season on hunting bear, except in those portions of Washington County and Hancock County that are situated south of Route 9. [PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §16 (RPR).]

D. **(TEXT EFFECTIVE UNTIL 5/01/25) (TEXT REPEALED 5/01/25)** Notwithstanding paragraph C, until May 1, 2025, in those portions of Washington County and Hancock County that are situated south of Route 9, a resident may train up to 6 dogs at any one time on bear from July 1st to the 4th day preceding the open season on hunting bear except that permission is required to train dogs on land used for wild blueberry production.

This paragraph is repealed May 1, 2025. [PL 2023, c. 172, §1 (NEW).]

Except on Sundays, a person may not engage in activities authorized under this subsection unless that person possesses a valid hunting license issued under section 11109. A person may train dogs on pen-raised birds at any time without a license. For the purpose of this subsection, "pen-raised birds" includes, but is not limited to, quail, pheasant, pigeons and Hungarian partridge.

A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation.

[PL 2023, c. 134, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 172, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §11 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

1-A. Open training season 2009-2010.

[PL 2009, c. 76, §1 (NEW); MRSA T. 12 §12051, sub-§1-A (RP).]

2. Rock dove permits.

[PL 2013, c. 280, §12 (RP).]

2-A. Collar requirements. A person may not train a dog on bear, fox or raccoon unless the dog has a collar with a functioning global positioning system tracker and a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of that dog. For purposes of this subsection, "global positioning system tracker" means an electronic device that allows a person hunting with a dog to track the dog's location at all times.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2021, c. 580, §10 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2021, c. 580, §10 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 580, §10 (NEW).]

2-B. Permit requirement. A person may not train a dog in pursuit of a bear, fox or raccoon unless that person has a valid dog training and hunting permit in accordance with section 11163. A person who violates this subsection is subject to the penalties provided in section 11163.

[PL 2021, c. 580, §11 (NEW).]

3. Possessing firearm while training dogs. A person may not possess a firearm while training a dog outside of the open training season on foxes, snowshoe hare, gray squirrels, red squirrels and raccoons as set out in subsection 1, paragraph A.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §191 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §191 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2023, c. 134, §2 (AMD).]

4. Unlawful use of firearm during training or field trials.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §192 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

5. Unlawful use of firearm during training or field trials. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person may not possess during the training or field trials permitted in this section and section 12054 a firearm other than a blank pistol or shotgun loaded with blank ammunition, except during an open season for hunting. The commissioner may issue a permit to a person authorizing the use of firearms during the training of sporting dogs to shoot and kill wild birds propagated or legally acquired by the permittee and possessed in accordance with section 12152.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §193 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §193 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §193 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

6. Effect of revocation. A person may not train dogs under this section if that person has a suspended or revoked license pursuant to section 10902.

[PL 2013, c. 247, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 286, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B191-193 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 76, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 550, §7 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 253, §§21, 22 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 309, §4 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 247, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 280, §12 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 286, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. A, §16 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 580, §§10, 11 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 134, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 172, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §11 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

§12052. Special dog training area license

1. License required. Except as otherwise authorized under this Part, a person may not engage in an activity authorized under this section unless that person has a valid license issued under this section. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Application and issuance. Upon application of a club or organization having 25 or more resident members, the commissioner may issue to the club or organization a license authorizing the following.

A. The licensee may establish and maintain on land owned by the licensee, or over which the licensee has legal control, a special dog training area in which and on which dogs may be trained at any time during the year. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. The licensee may at any time during the year train the licensee's own dogs or the dogs of other persons on that area. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. The licensee may hold field trials at any time on that area or permit, in writing, others to hold field trials on that area under such conditions as are mutually agreed on. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

No more than 8 clubs in any one county may be issued a license.

[PL 2019, c. 65, §1 (AMD).]

3. Fee. The fee for a special dog training area license is \$27.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §19 (AMD).]

4. Restrictions. The following provisions must be observed.

A. Each club licensed under this section may not establish more than 2 special dog training areas, each of which may not be less than 20 acres. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. A club may not control more than a total of 400 acres. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. A person shall plainly and conspicuously post the boundary line of a special dog training area with legible notices at least 11 inches square, placed not more than 100 yards apart, that must bear the following warning:

"SPECIAL DOG TRAINING FIELD TRIAL AREA -- HUNTING AND TRAPPING IS UNLAWFUL. This land is set aside under special license for the training of dogs and the holding of field trials. Entering on this land for the purpose of hunting or permitting dogs to enter without proper authorization is prohibited."

The name and address of the licensee must be printed on the notice. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §194 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §194 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

5. Use of special dog training area other than by licensee. Unless the area is completely enclosed with rabbit-proof fence, a person not a licensee may train that person's own dogs or the dogs of other persons on a special dog training area under the following conditions.

A. The person shall apply in writing to the licensee and must receive a permit to do so, for which a charge not to exceed \$2 may be made, which amount is retained by the licensee. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

Unless the special dog training area is completely enclosed by rabbit-proof fence, a licensee's failure to make reasonable provision for the use of that special dog training area by persons not licensees is sufficient grounds for the department to deny a renewal of license.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

6. Stocking by commissioner. The commissioner may, from time to time during each year, stock wild animals or wild birds at the special dog training area and shall charge the licensees a reasonable price for them.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

7. Stocking by licensee. This section is not to be construed as authorizing licensees to liberate a wild bird or quadruped coming from outside of the State on a special dog training area.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

8. Violation of license restriction. A person may not violate any restriction of a license or permit issued in accordance with this section.

A. A person who violates a license or permit restriction under this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §195 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates a license or permit restriction under this section after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §195 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

Each day a person violates a license or permit restriction under this section that person commits a separate violation.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §195 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B194,195 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III19 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 65, §1 (AMD).

§12053. Unlawful use of licensed dog training area

1. Unlawful use of licensed dog training area. The following provisions apply to licensed dog training areas.

A. A person may not hunt on a licensed dog training area licensed under section 12052 except that the owner of the land being used as a licensed dog training area may hunt wild animals and wild birds on the training area to the extent permitted by this Part. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. A person may not do any of the following on a dog training area licensed and posted in accordance with section 12052 except as provided in section 12052:

(1) Train a dog;

- (2) Hold a field trial;
- (3) Enter the area accompanied by a dog; or
- (4) Permit a dog of which that person is the owner or trainer to enter the area. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §196 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §196 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §197 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §197 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §197 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B196,197 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12054. Field trials; raccoon and rabbits

1. Raccoon dog field trials. A person may hold raccoon dog field trials at any time. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Rabbit hound field trials. A person may not hold field trials for beagles and other rabbit hounds except from September 1st through the following April 10th. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation. [PL 2023, c. 431, §12 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

3. Sporting dog field trials. The licensing and conduct of sporting dog field trials is governed by section 12055. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 431, §12 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

§12055. License to hold field trials; wild birds

1. License required. A club or organization may not hold field trials as provided under this section unless the club or organization has a valid license issued under this section. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a civil violation. [PL 2023, c. 431, §13 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

2. Application and issuance. Upon application of a club or organization, the commissioner may, at the commissioner's discretion, issue to the club or organization a license authorizing the following.

A. The licensee may hold, at the time and place stated in the license, a field trial for sporting dogs for the purpose of demonstrating the skill of the dogs in finding, tracking, flushing, pointing or retrieving dead or wounded wild birds. [PL 2017, c. 205, §10 (AMD).]

B. Members of the licensee club or organization may shoot and kill with firearms wild birds propagated or legally acquired by members of the licensee at the field trial held at the time and place specified in the license. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. Persons may participate in a field trial pursuant to this section without a hunting license. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

A separate application must be filed for each field trial proposed to be held by a club or organization, as described in this section.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §10 (AMD).]

3. Fee. The fee for a license to hold field trials for sporting dogs is \$27.

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §20 (AMD).]

4. Shooting hours and consent. Members of the licensee club or organization may not shoot and kill birds, unless it is during the daylight hours and only with the consent of the owner of or person having legal control of the land on which the field trial is held.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

5. Violation of restrictions. A person may not violate any restriction of a license or permit issued in accordance with this section.

A. A person who violates a license or permit restriction under this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §198 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates a license or permit restriction under this section after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §198 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

Each day a person violates a license or permit restriction under this section that person commits a separate violation.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §198 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B198 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III20 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 205, §10 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §13 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

SUBCHAPTER 14

COMMERCIAL SHOOTING AREAS

§12101. License to operate commercial shooting area

1. Issuance.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

1-A. License required. A person may not charge others for the opportunity to hunt mallard ducks, pheasants, quail, Chukar partridge and Hungarian partridge in an area or establish a commercial shooting area for such purposes unless that person has a valid license issued under this section. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a civil violation.

A. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the operator of a commercial shooting area from authorizing a person to hunt other wild birds or wild animals in the commercial shooting area during the regular open season on those species, in accordance with this Part, as long as the person possesses a valid state hunting license that allows the hunting of those wild birds and wild animals. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2023, c. 431, §14 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).]

1-B. Issuance. The commissioner may issue licenses authorizing the establishment and operation of commercial shooting areas to qualified applicants. A commercial shooting area license authorizes the owner of a commercial shooting area to charge others for the opportunity to hunt mallard ducks, pheasants, quail, Chukar partridge and Hungarian partridge in that area. A commercial shooting area license is valid for one year and is renewable annually.
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

1-C. Prohibition; remote-control hunting. An owner or operator of a commercial shooting area may not use a website, or a service or business via any other means, that permits a person to hunt or attempt to hunt a wild animal or wild bird that is located in this State through the use of a computer-controlled gun, shooting apparatus or any other remote-control device when the person using the website, service or business is physically removed from the immediate vicinity of the wild animal or wild bird. A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime.
[PL 2017, c. 205, §11 (NEW).]

2. Eligibility. In order to qualify for a commercial shooting area license:

A. The location of the land must be at least 5 miles from another commercial shooting area, as measured by a straight line between the property lines at their closest points to each other; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. The land must be between 200 acres and 400 acres in area; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. The land must be contiguous. Property bisected by a road or highway is considered to be contiguous for purposes of this paragraph; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

D. The land must be owned or leased by the licensed operator of the commercial shooting area.
[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

A person is ineligible to receive a new shooting area license within 6 months of the expiration of the license for another shooting area located within 5 miles unless the holder of the expired license states in writing to the commissioner that that license will be abandoned.

A renewal of a shooting area license may be issued for a commercial shooting area within 5 miles of another commercial shooting area, notwithstanding paragraph A, as long as the renewed license is applied for within 6 months following the expiration of the old license.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Fees. The fee for a commercial shooting area license is:

A. For the first year of operation, \$502; and [PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §21 (AMD).]

B. For each subsequent year, \$252, payable prior to July 1st of each year. [PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §21 (AMD).]

[PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. III, §21 (AMD).]

4. Requirements. The following requirements apply to a commercial shooting area.

A. The operator of the commercial shooting area shall maintain and keep open to inspection by representatives of the department a register of:

- (1) The name and address of each person shooting in the area;
- (2) The date or dates when that person hunted in the area; and
- (3) The number and type of birds killed by that person. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. The operator of the commercial shooting area shall provide to each person taking birds in that area a receipted invoice or bill of sale for possession and transportation of those birds. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

C. The operator of the commercial shooting area shall mark the boundary of the shooting area in a manner prescribed by the commissioner and shall post the boundary conspicuously with signs or other markings approved by the commissioner. The signs or markings must be of a color, size and wording prescribed by the commissioner and must be placed not more than 250 feet apart facing the outside of the area. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

4-A. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of subsection 4.

A. A person who violates subsection 4 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates subsection 4 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

5. Enforcement. Enforcement of the trespass laws of a commercial shooting area is the responsibility of the owner and is not in any manner to be considered an obligation of the department. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

6. Exceptions.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §199 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B199 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III21 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 205, §11 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §14 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 431, §23 (AFF).

§12102. Importation permit for mallard ducks, quail, Chukar partridge and Hungarian partridge

1. Issuance. The commissioner may grant permits to import live mallard ducks, quail, Chukar partridge and Hungarian partridge to operators of commercial shooting areas. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

2. Application. When requesting permission to import these birds, an importer shall:

A. Provide the commissioner with information on the number of the birds to be imported and the name and address of the seller; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

B. Furnish the commissioner with a statement from an approved veterinarian or from the Department of Agriculture or from the conservation department of the state from which the birds are imported certifying that they are from flocks that have been tested for infectious or contagious disease and have not been exposed to that disease during the 6 months prior to importation. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).

§12103. Remote-control hunting

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 81, §3 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 205, §12 (RP).

SUBCHAPTER 15

WILDLIFE IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION PERMITS AND REQUIREMENTS

§12151. Keeping wildlife in captivity

1. Prohibition. A person may not keep wildlife in captivity except as provided under section 10105, subsection 10, sections 12102, 12152 and 12157 and Title 7, section 1809 or except if the wild animal was purchased from a dealer or pet shop licensed under Title 7, section 3933.
[PL 2017, c. 205, §13 (AMD).]

2. Penalties. Except as provided in section 12152, subsection 7, the following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2015, c. 374, §3 (AMD).]

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §200 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

C. The department may seize fish or wildlife in accordance with sections 10502 and 10503 from a person who violates subsection 1. [PL 2015, c. 374, §4 (NEW).]
[PL 2017, c. 285, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B200 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 374, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 205, §13 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 285, §1 (AMD).

§12152. Permit to possess wildlife in captivity

1. Permit required.

[PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §201 (RP); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

1-A. Permit required. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, a person may not import wildlife into or possess wildlife in the State or receive or possess wildlife imported into the State. The department shall maintain a list of unregulated fish and wildlife species for which a permit under this section is not required that is available to the public. Each day a person violates this subsection that

person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable permit fee must be imposed. The commissioner may grant a permit to introduce, import, transport, receive or possess fish or gametes in accordance with the provisions of section 12509. [PL 2017, c. 205, §14 (AMD).]

1-B. Exemption. Notwithstanding subsection 1-A, a reptile, amphibian or invertebrate that is native to the State and not listed by the department as threatened or endangered or as a species of special concern may be captured from the wild in the State and possessed without a permit. Possession limits for each species are as follows:

- A. Amphibians, up to 5 specimens of each species; [PL 2017, c. 205, §15 (NEW).]
- B. Reptiles, up to 2 specimens of each species; and [PL 2017, c. 205, §15 (NEW).]
- C. Invertebrates, no specimen limits. [PL 2017, c. 205, §15 (NEW).]

Animals captured under this subsection must be kept in a manner that does not permit contact between those animals and any other animal that is not naturally present in the wild in this State. If an animal captured under this subsection is released back into the wild, the animal must be released in or near the same location where the animal was captured. Importation into the State of a reptile, amphibian or invertebrate exempted under this subsection is prohibited without a permit. Exhibition, propagation or export or sale for commercial purposes is prohibited without a permit. A person may not export, sell or otherwise use for commercial purposes any animal captured under this subsection unless the person holds an applicable permit for that use.

[PL 2021, c. 65, §3 (AMD).]

2. Affected species. Except as otherwise provided in this Part, this section applies to the possession of any wildlife regulated by the State that is held in captivity and to the importation of wildlife from an area outside the State, including:

- A. All species listed under state law as threatened or endangered; [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
- B. All species other than those listed in paragraph A not included on a list of unregulated, nonnative species that is maintained by the commissioner to facilitate the issuance of importation permits; and [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]
- C. Species identified in rules adopted by the commissioner. [PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

The commissioner may adopt rules that classify wildlife into categories as described in subsection 3-D for purposes of determining applicable fees under this section. The rules must, at a minimum, include the list of unrestricted, nonnative species as provided in paragraph B, a category of wildlife that is endangered or threatened or presents a risk to humans, a category of wildlife that requires special housing or care and a category of prohibited species for which a permit is not issued under any circumstances.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §16 (AMD).]

3. Issuance. The commissioner may issue a permit to a person permitting the introduction, importation, possession and use of wildlife in accordance with the provisions of subsection 5.

- A. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §8 (RP).]
 - B. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §8 (RP).]
 - C. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §8 (RP).]
 - D. [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §8 (RP).]
- [PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §8 (RPR).]

3-A. Restrictions. A permit issued pursuant to this section does not authorize the permittee to:

A. Possess, propagate or sell deer, bear, moose, wild turkey, hybrid wild turkey or wild turkey-domestic turkey cross nor does it authorize the permittee to possess, propagate or sell any wild animal taken in accordance with section 12401, 12402 or 12404; or [PL 2019, c. 639, §7 (AMD).]

B. Import any species of wild turkey, hybrid wild turkey or wild turkey-domestic turkey cross or the eggs of these species. [PL 2015, c. 374, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 639, §7 (AMD).]

3-B. Application fees.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §17 (RP).]

3-C. Issuance for unpermitted wildlife. The commissioner may issue a permit under this section to a person who possesses wildlife without a permit for which a permit is required if the possession would have been allowed had the person applied for a permit before importing or possessing the wildlife. A person issued a permit under this subsection must pay a fee of \$500 in addition to the applicable application fee and permit fee. A person issued a permit under this subsection may not be charged with a penalty under section 12151. The commissioner may issue a notice of corrective action to a person issued a permit under this subsection informing the person of the requirement to fully comply with application and permit conditions and that failure to comply may result in denial of future permits.

[PL 2019, c. 652, §1 (AMD).]

3-D. Permit types; application fees; permit fees. An applicant for a permit under this section shall submit a written application on a form specified by the commissioner. The application must be accompanied by the applicable nonrefundable application fee. The following permits may be issued by the commissioner:

A. A category 1 restricted species importation permit, which allows the holder to import wildlife that is endangered or threatened or presents a risk to humans into the State. The following fees apply to a permit under this paragraph:

(1) Application fee, \$250; and

(2) Permit fee, \$27; [PL 2017, c. 205, §18 (NEW).]

B. A category 1 restricted species exhibition permit, which allows the holder to exhibit wildlife for commercial purposes that is endangered or threatened or presents a risk to humans or that requires special housing or care. A category 1 restricted species exhibition permit does not allow the holder to exhibit wolf hybrids, as defined in Title 7, section 3907, subsection 30. A category 1 restricted species exhibition permit expires 2 years from the date of issuance. The following fees apply to a permit under this paragraph:

(1) Application fee, \$250; and

(2) Permit fee, \$150; [PL 2017, c. 205, §18 (NEW).]

C. A category 2 restricted species importation permit, which allows the holder to import wildlife that requires special housing or care. The following fees apply to a permit under this paragraph:

(1) Application fee, \$100; and

(2) Permit fee, \$27; [PL 2017, c. 205, §18 (NEW).]

D. A category 2 restricted species possession permit, which allows the holder to possess wildlife that requires special housing or care. A category 2 restricted species possession permit expires 2 years from the date of issuance. The following fees apply to a permit under this paragraph:

(1) Application fee, \$27; and

(2) Permit fee, \$27; [PL 2017, c. 205, §18 (NEW).]

E. A wildlife rehabilitation permit, which allows the holder to possess debilitated or orphaned wildlife and rehabilitate that wildlife and release it into the wild as soon as the wildlife is rehabilitated or euthanize that wildlife in accordance with humane euthanization procedures if rehabilitation and release are not possible. A wildlife rehabilitation permit is available at no cost and expires on December 31st of the 2nd complete year after the date of issuance; [PL 2019, c. 355, §6 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 501, §9 (AMD).]

F. A research permit, which allows the holder to import and possess wildlife that is endangered or threatened or presents a risk to humans or that requires special housing or care to conduct scientific research or to use for educational purposes. A research permit is available at no cost and expires 2 years from the date of issuance; and [PL 2017, c. 205, §18 (NEW).]

G. An educational and scientific collection permit, which allows the holder to hunt, trap, possess, band and transport wildlife from within the State for educational or scientific purposes. An educational and scientific permit is not required to hunt, trap, possess, band or transport an invertebrate that is not listed by the department as endangered or threatened or as a species of special concern. An educational and scientific collection permit is available at no cost and expires one year from the date of issuance. [PL 2021, c. 65, §4 (AMD).]

[PL 2021, c. 65, §4 (AMD).]

4. Permit fees.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §19 (RP).]

4-A. Renewal. A permit holder who wishes to renew a permit issued under this section must renew the permit prior to its expiration date. The department may assess a late fee of \$25, in addition to the required permit fee, to a person who does not renew a permit prior to its expiration date. [PL 2015, c. 374, §9 (NEW).]

5. Rules. The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the administration of this section, including provisions to ensure that all wildlife possessed under these permits receives humane treatment and proper husbandry and security, and to safeguard the interests of the wildlife and citizens of the State. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Rules adopted may include but are not limited to rules that:

A. Maintain updated inspection provisions for applicants attempting to acquire a permit to possess or introduce, import and possess fish or wildlife in captivity; [PL 2015, c. 374, §10 (NEW).]

B. Maintain a fee structure to establish fees for inspection provisions for regulated species; [PL 2015, c. 374, §10 (NEW).]

C. Provide a process that allows authorized independent contractors to meet with permit applicants to educate applicants on minimum standard facility requirements and to inspect current facilities to recommend approval or denial of a permit; and [PL 2015, c. 374, §10 (NEW).]

D. Charge a responsible party for the cost incurred to remove or euthanize unpermitted regulated fish or wildlife species. [PL 2015, c. 374, §10 (NEW).]

[PL 2015, c. 374, §10 (AMD).]

6. Additional permit requirements. In addition to the provisions adopted under subsection 3, the commissioner may assign permit conditions or requirements designed to mitigate potential impacts or risks that may arise from the possession of specific wildlife species or to ensure the humane treatment or proper husbandry for specific species.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

7. Escaped wildlife prohibition; penalty. The following provisions apply to escaped wildlife.

A. A person may not allow wildlife in captivity to escape that person's possession or control in violation of:

- (1) Rules adopted pursuant to subsection 5; or
- (2) An additional permit condition or requirement assigned pursuant to subsection 6. [PL 2017, c. 285, §2 (NEW).]

B. Notwithstanding section 12151, subsection 2, a person who violates paragraph A commits:

- (1) A Class E crime if the wildlife is permitted in accordance with this section and the permit holder does not immediately notify a law enforcement officer that the wildlife has escaped;
- (2) A Class E crime if the wildlife is not permitted in accordance with this section and the person immediately notifies a law enforcement officer that the wildlife has escaped; or
- (3) A Class D crime if the wildlife is not permitted in accordance with this section and the person does not immediately notify a law enforcement officer that the wildlife has escaped. [PL 2017, c. 285, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 285, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B201 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 12, §III22 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 117, §2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 301, §27 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 374, §§5-10 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §8 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 205, §§14-19 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 285, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 355, §6 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 501, §9 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 639, §7 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 652, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 65, §§3, 4 (AMD).

§12153. Violation of rules regarding wild animals in captivity

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B202 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 301, §28 (RP).

§12154. Department breeding or rearing wild birds

Notwithstanding section 12151 as it applies to section 12152, section 12151 does not apply to migratory game birds, partridge, grouse or pheasant owned by the department. [PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §203 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B203 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12155. Importation permit for wildlife

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B204 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 374, §11 (RP).

§12156. Release of wildlife into wild

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not release into the wild captive, raised or imported wildlife unless that person has a valid permit issued under this

section. Each day a person violates this subsection that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §20 (AMD).]

2. Issuance. The commissioner may issue a written permit to any person permitting that person to release into the wild captive, raised or imported wildlife.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §20 (AMD).]

3. Wild turkey restrictions. Only the commissioner or agents of the commissioner may sell, give away or release into the wild any live wild turkey, hybrid wild turkey, wild turkey-domestic turkey cross or fertile egg of these species.

[PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 205, §20 (AMD).

§12157. Permit to transport wildlife for breeding and advertising

1. Permit required. The commissioner may issue a permit to anyone permitting that person to take and transport within the limits of the State wildlife taken in the State for breeding or advertising purposes.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §205 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

2. Prohibition. A person may not take or transport within the limits of the State wildlife taken in the State for breeding or advertising purposes unless that person holds a valid permit issued under this section.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §205 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

3. Penalty. Each day a person violates subsection 2 that person commits a Class E crime for which a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee must be imposed.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §205 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B205 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF).

§12158. Importation permit for pheasants

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §B206 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV). PL 2017, c. 205, §21 (RP).

§12159. Taking reptiles and amphibians from the wild

1. Prohibition; penalties. Except as provided in this section, a person may not take or possess reptiles or amphibians from the wild for export, sale or commercial purposes.

A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §207 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

[PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §207 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §422 (AFF).]

[PL 2021, c. 54, §10 (AMD).]

2. Commercial amphibian permit. Persons harvesting amphibians for purposes of sale are required to obtain a permit from the commissioner. The fee for a permit issued under this subsection is \$27. The permit expires one year from the date of issuance. [PL 2017, c. 205, §22 (AMD).]

3. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules pertaining to harvest methods, confinement and disposal of amphibians. The commissioner may by rule:

- A. Require reporting of harvest activities; [PL 2011, c. 253, §23 (AMD).]
- B. Establish a season, including daily and season possession limits; and [PL 2017, c. 205, §23 (AMD).]
- C. Establish requirements for humane harvest, confinement and disposal methods. [PL 2017, c. 205, §23 (AMD).]
- D. [PL 2017, c. 205, §23 (RP).]

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §23 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 414, §A2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 414, §D7 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 614, §9 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 655, §§B207,208 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 655, §B422 (AFF). PL 2011, c. 253, §23 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 205, §§22, 23 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 54, §10 (AMD).

§12160. Disposition of wolf hybrids

1. Determination of species. The department shall respond to requests under Title 7, section 3911-B, subsection 3 for assistance in capturing and disposing of an animal suspected of being a wolf hybrid. The department may presume that the animal is a wolf hybrid if:

- A. Licensure as a dog under Title 7, section 3922 cannot be confirmed; [PL 2011, c. 100, §16 (NEW).]
- B. The animal bears no identification indicating ownership; and [PL 2011, c. 100, §16 (NEW).]
- C. The animal has distinct wolflike characteristics. [PL 2011, c. 100, §16 (NEW).]

The department may pursue genetic testing to determine if the animal is a wolf or wolf hybrid.

[PL 2011, c. 100, §16 (NEW).]

2. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules establishing procedures for disposing of animals determined to be wolf hybrids under subsection 1. For the purposes of this section, "disposing" includes, but is not limited to, transferring the animal to a person holding a permit under section 12152 or euthanasia in accordance with Title 17, chapter 42, subchapter 4. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2011, c. 100, §16 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 100, §16 (NEW).

§12161. Taking of certain nonmarine invertebrates from the wild for commercial purposes

1. Prohibition; penalties. Except as provided in this section, a person may not take and possess certain nonmarine invertebrates, specifically freshwater mussels, butterflies, moths, dragonflies or beetles, from the wild for export, sale or commercial purposes.

- A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged. [PL 2011, c. 253, §24 (NEW).]

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime. [PL 2011, c. 253, §24 (NEW).]
[PL 2011, c. 253, §24 (NEW).]

2. Commercial nonmarine invertebrate permit. Persons harvesting freshwater mussels, butterflies, moths, dragonflies or beetles for export, sale or commercial purposes are required to obtain a permit from the commissioner. The fee for a permit issued under this subsection is \$27. The permit expires one year from the date of issuance. [PL 2017, c. 205, §24 (AMD).]

3. Rules. The commissioner may by rule:

A. Require reporting of commercial harvest activities, including at a minimum dates, locations and numbers collected by species; [PL 2011, c. 253, §24 (NEW).]

B. Establish daily and season possession limits; and [PL 2017, c. 205, §25 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2017, c. 205, §26 (RP).]

D. Require humane harvest, confinement and disposal methods. [PL 2011, c. 253, §24 (NEW).]

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2017, c. 205, §§25, 26 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 253, §24 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 205, §§24-26 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.