



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 614

H.P. 391

House of Representatives, February 14, 2023

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

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, LANDRY of Farmington, SOBOLESKI of
Phillips, Senator: HARRINGTON of York.

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

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

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

16 **SUMMARY**

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