



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 137

H.P. 119

House of Representatives, January 20, 2011

An Act To Allow the Use of Crossbows during the Archery Season

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative HARVELL of Farmington.
Cosponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Lisbon, Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: CLARK of Millinocket, CRAY of Palmyra, CROCKETT of Bethel,
GIFFORD of Lincoln, LIBBY of Waterboro, PARRY of Arundel, SHAW of Standish,
WILLETTE of Mapleton.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10952**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected
3 by Pt. D, §7 and c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

4 **§10952. Open seasons for hunting with bow and arrow and crossbow**

5 A person may, except as otherwise provided in this Part, hunt any wild bird or wild
6 animal with a hand-held bow and arrow or a crossbow during any open season on that
7 bird or animal.

8 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10953, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 419, §2 and
9 affected by §12, is amended to read:

10 **1. Species and seasons.** Except as provided in this Part, a person may hunt bear
11 with a crossbow during the open season on bear as provided in section 11251 and may
12 hunt deer with a crossbow during the open firearm season on deer as provided in section
13 11401. This subsection does not authorize a person to hunt deer with a crossbow ~~during~~
14 ~~an expanded archery season established under section 11403 or in an expanded archery~~
15 ~~zone or~~ during the muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season established under section
16 11404.

17 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11109-A, sub-§3, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 163, §1 and
18 affected by §3, is amended to read:

19 A. One deer during either the regular open firearm season or the regular ~~archery-only~~
20 archery and crossbow season or the special muzzle-loading season in accordance with
21 sections 11401, 11403 and 11404, respectively;

22 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11403**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 163, §2 and affected by §3,
23 is further amended to read:

24 **§11403. Regular archery and crossbow deer hunting season**

25 **1. License required.** Except as provided in section 11108, subsection 1 or otherwise
26 authorized by this Part, a person 16 years of age or older may not hunt deer with a bow
27 and arrow or crossbow during the special open season on deer as provided under this
28 section unless that person has a valid archery hunting license or crossbow hunting license.

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

32 **2. Open archery and crossbow season on deer.** The commissioner shall by rule
33 establish a regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow season beginning at least 30 days
34 prior and extending to the beginning of the regular deer hunting season, as described in
35 section 11401, subsection 1, paragraph A, for the purpose of hunting deer with bow and
36 arrow ~~only~~ and crossbow. During the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow season
37 on deer, the following restrictions apply.

1 A. A person may not take a deer during a regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and crossbow
2 season unless that person uses a crossbow as allowed in section 10953 or a hand-held
3 bow and broadhead arrow with the following specifications.

4 (1) Bows must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds.

5 (2) Arrowheads, including mechanical broadheads when open, must be at least
6 7/8 inch in width.

7 B. A person may not carry firearms of any kind while hunting any species of
8 wildlife with bow and arrow or crossbow during the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and
9 crossbow season on deer, except that a person who holds a license that allows hunting
10 with firearms may carry a handgun. This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit
11 a person who holds a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm pursuant to Title 25,
12 section 2003 from carrying a firearm.

13 C. Except as provided in section 11109-A, subsection 3, if a person takes a deer
14 with bow and arrow or crossbow during the regular ~~archery-only~~ archery and
15 crossbow season on deer, that person is precluded from further hunting for deer
16 during that year.

17 D. Except as provided in this subsection, the provisions of this Part concerning deer
18 are applicable to the taking of deer with bow and arrow and crossbow, including the
19 transportation, registration and possession of deer taken by this method.

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

21 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11603, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 477, §13, is
22 further amended to read:

23 **1. Prohibition.** ~~A~~ Except as provided in section 10952, a person may not use a .17
24 or .22 caliber rimfire firearm, a shotgun using shot loads or a crossbow to hunt moose.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill allows the use of crossbows during the regular archery season.