



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 427

H.P. 307

House of Representatives, February 7, 2017

An Act To Give Certain Landowners First Priority for Antlerless Deer Permits

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 PICKETT of Dixfield. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and Representatives: BLACK of Wilton,
CRAIG of Brewer, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HANLEY of Pittston, HILLIARD of Belgrade,
LYFORD of Eddington, NADEAU of Winslow, SKOLFIELD of Weld.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11152, sub-§3, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2
3 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

4 B. No more than 15% of the antlerless deer permits ~~issued~~ available after issuance to
5 junior hunters under subsection 4, paragraph B in any one district or in any one zone
6 may be issued to nonresident and alien hunters.

7 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11152, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 492, §4, is further
8 amended to read:

9 **4. Allocation to landowner.** ~~An~~ Except as otherwise provided in this section, an
10 antlerless deer permit system adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section may
11 include a provision giving special consideration to landowners who keep their lands open
12 to hunting by the public. As part of the special consideration to those landowners, the
13 commissioner shall must provide at least 25% of the all available antlerless deer permits
14 in a wildlife management district to eligible landowners that who apply for an antlerless
15 deer permit in that district. For purposes of this subsection, "eligible landowner" means a
16 landowner of record who owns at least 50 contiguous acres of land and keeps that land
17 open to hunting by the public. Any 2 or more areas of land owned by the same person
18 that are open for hunting and that would be contiguous except for being divided by one or
19 more roads are considered contiguous for the purposes of determining landowner
20 eligibility for special consideration under this subsection. An eligible landowner may
21 receive only one antlerless deer permit under this subsection, which may allow hunting
22 only in the wildlife management district in which the eligible landowner's property is
23 located. An antlerless deer permit issued under this subsection may be transferred
24 pursuant to subsections 5 and 5-A.

25 A. If the number of eligible landowner applications exceeds the number of antlerless
26 deer permits available in a wildlife management district, the commissioner shall
27 establish a lottery system to issue those permits to eligible landowners.

28 B. If the number of antlerless deer permits available in a wildlife management
29 district exceeds the number of eligible landowner applications, the commissioner
30 shall issue the remaining permits to junior hunters who apply for an antlerless deer
31 permit in that district. If the number of antlerless deer permits available in a wildlife
32 management district exceeds the number of eligible landowner applications and
33 junior hunter applications, the commissioner shall issue the remaining permits as
34 provided in this section.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill amends the current antlerless deer hunting permit system to require that all
37 antlerless deer permits available in a wildlife management district be issued to
38 landowners of record who own at least 50 contiguous acres of land open to hunting by the
39 public and have applied for the permit.

1 It also provides that if the number of available antlerless deer permits in a wildlife
2 management district exceeds the number of eligible landowner applications, the
3 remaining permits must be issued to junior hunters who have applied for an antlerless
4 deer permit in that district. If the number of antlerless deer permits available in a wildlife
5 management district exceeds the number of eligible landowner applications and junior
6 hunter applications, the commissioner is directed to issue the remaining permits as
7 provided in current law.