



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1117

H.P. 789

House of Representatives, March 21, 2013

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Muzzle-loading Hunting Season

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CROCKETT of Bethel. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11404, sub-§1-A**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 280, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1-A. Muzzle-loading-only open season on deer.** There is a special muzzle-loading
5 open season on deer immediately ~~following~~ preceding the regular deer hunting season
6 established under section 11401, subsection 1, paragraph A for the purpose of hunting
7 deer only with:

8 A. A muzzleloader as defined in section 10001, subsection 42-A that is 40 caliber or
9 greater and capable of firing only a single charge;

10 B. A muzzle-loading shotgun as defined in section 10001, subsection 42-B; or

11 C. A traditional muzzleloader as defined in section 10001, subsection 62-A that uses
12 projectiles that are 40 caliber or greater or that uses buckshot.

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

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

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill changes the special muzzle-loading open season on deer to immediately
22 before the regular deer hunting season.