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Date: (Filing No. H-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 28, L.D. 27, Bill, “An Act To Allow the Use of Crossbows during the Archery Season on Deer”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Allow the Use of a Crossbow for a Limited Duration during the Archery Season on Deer and the Fall Season on Wild Turkey'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10953, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 85, §1, is further amended to read:

- 1. Species and seasons.** A person may:
 - A. Hunt bear with a crossbow during the open season on bear as provided in section 11251;
 - B. Hunt wild turkey with a crossbow ~~in areas open to wild turkey hunting as established by rule in~~ during the spring open season on hunting wild turkey established by the commissioner in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to section 11701, except that a person may not hunt wild turkey with a crossbow from October 1st until the first day of the open season established by the commissioner in the following year;
 - C. Hunt moose with a crossbow in areas of the State open to moose hunting during the open season on moose established by rule in section 11552, subsections 1 and 2 and according to the rules pertaining to moose hunting permits adopted by the commissioner for the protection of the moose resource under section 11551 and in accordance with the provisions of section 11601; ~~and~~
 - D. Hunt deer with a crossbow during the open firearm season on deer as provided in section 11401-;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 E. Notwithstanding the restriction in section 11403 to hunting with bow and arrow
2 only, hunt deer with a crossbow during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 open archery season
3 on deer established by the commissioner in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to
4 section 11403. A person may not take an antlerless deer with a crossbow under this
5 paragraph during an open archery season on deer unless that person possesses an
6 antlerless deer permit in accordance with section 11152.

7 This paragraph is repealed January 1, 2023; and

8 F. Notwithstanding the prohibition on hunting wild turkey with a crossbow during
9 the fall open season on hunting wild turkey in section 11701 and also notwithstanding
10 paragraph B, hunt wild turkey with a crossbow during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 fall
11 open season on hunting wild turkey established by the commissioner in accordance
12 with rules adopted pursuant to section 11701.

13 This paragraph is repealed January 1, 2023.

14 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11701, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 85, §3, is further
15 amended to read:

16 The commissioner may establish open seasons for hunting wild turkeys, designate
17 areas that are open to the taking of wild turkeys in any part of the State, prescribe the
18 form and regulate the number of permits to be issued, determine the number and sex of
19 the birds to be harvested, establish bag limits, establish permit eligibility requirements,
20 establish legal hunting times, specify the types of weapons to be used during any open
21 wild turkey hunting season and make any other rules that the commissioner considers
22 necessary for the protection of the wild turkey resource. The rules must permit the use of
23 a crossbow during an open season for hunting wild turkey, except that a person may not
24 hunt wild turkey with a crossbow ~~from October 1st until the first day of the open season~~
25 ~~established by the commissioner in the following year~~ during the fall open season on
26 hunting wild turkey established by the commissioner.

27 **Sec. 3. Report.** By January 15, 2022, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and
28 Wildlife shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
29 jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters detailing the impact on the deer
30 population from the use of a crossbow in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes,
31 Title 12, section 10953, subsection 1, paragraph E and the impact on the turkey
32 population from the use of a crossbow in accordance with Title 12, section 10953,
33 subsection 1, paragraph F. The report must include whether the commissioner allowed
34 the use of a crossbow in any area where a special archery hunting season on deer was
35 established by the commissioner pursuant to Title 12, section 11402, subsection 4 during
36 the 2020, 2021 or 2022 season. The report must detail any issues or conflicts that arose
37 from the use of a crossbow during the regular archery deer hunting season, any special
38 archery hunting season and the fall open season on hunting wild turkey. Lastly, the
39 report must specify if the use of a crossbow should continue to be permitted during the
40 regular archery deer hunting season, any special archery hunting season and the fall open
41 season on hunting wild turkey. The committee may report out a bill to the Second
42 Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.'

43 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
44 section number to read consecutively.

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SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and the title. For a period of 3 years, beginning in 2020, it allows a person, in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, to hunt deer with a crossbow during the open archery season on deer and the fall open season on hunting wild turkey. It specifies that a person using a crossbow during the open archery season may not harvest an antlerless deer unless that person possesses an antlerless deer permit. It also clarifies that, outside of this limited time period, the use of a crossbow to hunt wild turkey is allowed only during the spring open season on hunting wild turkey. Lastly, it requires the commissioner to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters that includes a recommendation on whether to continue to permit the use of a crossbow during the regular archery season and the fall open season on hunting wild turkey and whether the commissioner allowed the use of a crossbow during a special archery season on deer and, if so, whether the use should continue to be permitted. The committee may report out a bill based on the report.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)