



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1265

S.P. 416

In Senate, March 29, 2021

An Act To Control the Means of Hunting Coyotes

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 25, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor and
Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: GEIGER of
Rockland, MATHIESON of Kittery, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, OSHER of Orono.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3911**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 254, §3, is further amended to
3 read:

4 **§3911. Dogs at large**

5 It is unlawful for any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to be at large, ~~except when used for~~
6 ~~hunting~~. The owner or keeper of any dog found at large is subject to the penalties provided
7 in this chapter.

8 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§7**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended
9 by c. 655, Pt. B, §100 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

10 **7. Mandatory hunting license revocation; coyote hunting violation.** A hunting
11 license of a person convicted of hunting coyote in violation of section ~~11206~~ 11206; section
12 11227, subsection 8; or ~~12001~~ section 11228, subsection 4 must be revoked and that person
13 is ineligible to obtain any hunting license for a period of one year from the date of
14 conviction.

15 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11160**, as corrected by RR 2011, c. 1, §17, is repealed.

16 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §11227, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

17 **8. Prohibition.** A person may not hunt coyote by the use or placement of bait. A
18 person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than
19 \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.

20 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §11228**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 432, §2, is amended to read:

21 **§11228. Hunting with dogs**

22 **1. Collar required.** A person may not hunt with a dog in pursuit of bear, ~~coyote~~ or
23 bobcat unless the dog has a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and
24 address of the owner of that dog.

25 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of
26 not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.

27 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having
28 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period
29 commits a Class E crime.

30 **2. Limit on number of dogs.** A person or persons may not use more than 6 dogs at
31 any one time to hunt ~~coyotes~~ or bobcats. A person who violates this subsection commits a
32 Class E crime.

33 ~~**3. Night hunting with dogs.** A person may not use a dog to hunt coyotes during the~~
34 ~~period from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise. A person who violates~~
35 ~~this subsection commits a Class E crime.~~

36 **4. Prohibition.** A person may not hunt with a dog in pursuit of coyote. A person who
37 violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 or
38 more than \$500 may be adjudged.

39 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA c. 915, sub-c. 12**, as amended, is repealed.

SUMMARY

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This bill amends the hunting laws by:

1. Removing the hunting exception from the prohibition of allowing dogs at large;
2. Repeals provisions allowing coyote hunting at night and hunting with dogs;
3. Provides for hunting license revocation for the hunting of coyotes at night, with dogs or by the use or placement of bait; and
4. Prohibits the hunting of coyotes by the use or placement of bait or with dogs.