

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

—  
H.P. 391 - L.D. 614

**An Act to Reduce Conflicts Between Landowners and Deer and Add an  
Additional Youth Deer Hunting Day**

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10264**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 187, §2, is further amended to read:

**§10264. Maine Deer Management Fund**

The Maine Deer Management Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to be used by the commissioner to fund or assist in funding predator control, to assist landowners with the prevention or management of landowner-deer conflict and to acquire or enhance deer habitat. If the funds from the fund are used to directly enhance or manage a deer wintering area on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, the land must be designated as a deer wintering area pursuant to section 1805-A. The commissioner shall establish on the department's online licensing system checkoff options that allow a person to donate money for predator control, landowner-deer conflict prevention or management or deer habitat acquisition or enhancement. ~~The checkoff options must be prominently displayed and contain web links to information about how the checkoff revenues have been and will be used. The commissioner shall also print in a prominent place on every paper application for a hunting license checkoff options that allow a person to donate money to the fund for predator control or deer habitat acquisition or enhancement. Revenues from the checkoffs must be deposited in the fund and used for purposes indicated by the checkoffs.~~

Notwithstanding section 10801, subsection 4, \$2 of each deer registration fee collected under section 12301-A, subsection 3, paragraph C must be deposited in the fund and may be used to assist landowners with the prevention or management of landowner-deer conflicts. ~~Fifty percent of the funds deposited in the fund from the deer registration fees must be used for predator control purposes and 50% of the deposited fees must be used to acquire or enhance deer habitat.~~ In addition, the revenue from each antlerless deer permit fee collected under section 11152, subsection 9, minus administrative costs, must be deposited in the fund and be used for predator control purposes or to acquire or manage

deer habitat. The commissioner may accept and deposit into the fund monetary gifts, donations or other contributions from public or private sources for the purposes specified in this section. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. The department shall report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters on the fund and its utilization.

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11402, sub-§4, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

C. Establish a 2-day youth deer hunting day period, to be held on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Saturday designated as an open day for residents of the State pursuant to section 11401.

**Sec. 3. Report.** By February 1, 2027, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters that includes findings and recommendations related to the extension of the youth deer hunting period under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 11402, subsection 4, paragraph C. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

**Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534**

Initiative: Provides allocations for expenditures related to assisting landowners with the prevention or management of landowner-deer conflicts.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$71,628
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$71,628</u>