



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 716

H.P. 455

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

An Act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GOLEK of Harpswell, MATHIESON of Kittery, PUGH of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§7**, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9, amended by
3 c. 655, Pt. B, §100 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

4 **7. Mandatory hunting license revocation; coyote hunting violation.** A hunting
5 license of a person convicted of hunting coyote in violation of section 11160 or 12001 must
6 be revoked and that person is ineligible to obtain any hunting license for a period of one
7 year from the date of conviction and a \$500 fine must be imposed.

8 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11160, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and
9 affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

10 **1. Permit required.** Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person
11 may not hunt coyote at night unless that person has a valid permit issued under this section.
12 Each night a person violates this subsection ~~that person commits a Class E crime for which~~
13 ~~a minimum fine of \$50 and an amount equal to twice the applicable license fee~~ \$500 must
14 be imposed and the hunting license of that person must be revoked for a period of one year.

15 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12001**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 216, §1, is further amended
16 by amending the section headnote to read:

17 **§12001. ~~Night season~~ Season and restrictions**

18 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §12001, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 216, §1, is further
19 amended to read:

20 **1. Coyote hunting.** Notwithstanding the night hunting prohibitions in section 11206,
21 there is an open season for hunting coyotes ~~at night~~ in all counties of the State from
22 ~~December 16th to August 31st~~ October 1st to March 31st.

23 Notwithstanding section 11214, subsection 1, paragraph M, the commissioner may appoint
24 agents to hunt for coyotes at night using artificial illumination from September 1st to
25 December 15th. The commissioner shall develop policies to make the affected public and
26 affected law enforcement officers aware of any night hunting operations.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill establishes a coyote hunting season to be held from October 1st to March 31st.
29 It also updates the penalties associated with hunting coyotes outside of the prescribed
30 season.