

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Date: February 23, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
From: Rachel Olson, Legislative Analyst
Re: LD 10, An Act To Allow Resident Hunters To Harvest 2 Bears per Bear Hunting Season (Davis)

Summary

This bill allows bear hunters who are residents of the State to take 3 bears per bear hunting season; two by hunting and one by trapping. Nonresidents may take 2 bears per bear hunting season; one by hunting and one by trapping.

Testimony

Proponents: Senator Paul Davis (sponsor); Harvey Calden, Maine Sporting Camp Assoc.; Julie-Ann Smith, ME Farm Bureau Assoc.; Steve Wood, JS Wood

- Nonresidents should have same limits as residents; consistency
- In support, but also in support of LD 142

Opponents: Mary Throckmorton; John Glowa, Sr.; Robert Bryan, BHA; Don Kleiner, MPGA; Melissa Gates, Animal Rights Maine; Wendy Andresen; Katie Hansberry, Humane Society of the US

- Bear baiting is a significant factor to increased bear populations, increased hunting will not address the problem.
- Bag limits should be determined through WMDs, not statewide
- Nonresidents, who make up significant portion of bear hunters, are at a disadvantage
- Focus should be on non-lethal management techniques
- Reject LD 10 in favor of considering LD 142

Neither for nor against: Nate Webb, DIFW; David Trahan, SAM-ILA

- Support the goal, but would prefer the committee consider LD 142, which reflects work done last year

Potential Issues or Technical Problems

None identified

Notes and Additional Information

- Sponsor indicated that this is a bill from last session that was worked on, but died as a result of the session ending abruptly. The version developed as a part of that work last session is being brought forward by Rep. Martin in the form of LD 142.

Information Requests

- Numbers related to women in bear hunting were requested.

The department provided those numbers following the public hearing by email. The excel spreadsheet is included below, under links, as a PDF.

Fiscal Impact

- Fiscal Status: Not Yet Determined

Links

[Testimony](#)

[Women in Bear Hunting](#)

[LD 142](#)

Current Laws for Reference

[12 MRSA §10902](#) Suspension or revocation of or refusal to issue license or permit

[12 MRSA §11217](#) Buying and selling wild animals and wild birds

[12 MRSA §11251](#) Open and closed seasons (Bear)

[12 MRSA §11351](#) Bear bag limit

[12 MRSA §12260](#) Trapping bear