

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Date: March 1, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
From: Rachel Olson, Legislative Analyst
Re: LD 116, An Act To Allow the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Authorize the Hunting of Antlerless Deer without a Permit in Certain Areas (Landry)

Summary

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to allow hunters to take antlerless deer without an antlerless deer permit in certain areas of the State. It also changes the term “antlerless deer permit system” to “antlerless deer permit lottery.”

Testimony

Proponents: Nate Webb, DIFW; Robert R. Bryan, BHA; Julie Ann Smith, ME Farm Bureau Assoc.; Steve Wood

- Provide more opportunities for hunters
- Any-deer permits are primary tool for balancing deer population, this would give Department greater flexibility to meet these goals
- Consider unintended consequences related to hunter migration, land owner conflicts

Opponents: Mary Throckmorton; Melissa Gates, Animal Rights Maine

- This will have a negative impact on the deer herd
- Effective wildlife management techniques are proactive, non-lethal

Neither for nor against: David Trahan, Gerry Lavigne, SAM-ILA; Don Kleiner, MPGA

- Should be viewed as a last-resort option to achieve population outcomes
- Consider unintended consequences
- Support idea, but interested in having the committee direct the department to form a stakeholder group to review the any-deer permit system and develop recommendations

Notes/Issues

- The current antlerless deer permit system is a chance lottery. The use of the word “system” leaves more options for the type of systems that could be used. By changing the term to “lottery” the department is limited in its approach.

Fiscal Impact

- Fiscal Status: Not Yet Determined

Links

[LD 116](#)

[Testimony](#)

[MDIFW – Any-Deer Permit information](#)

Current Statutes for Reference:

[12 MRSA §10902, sub-§6. Mandatory hunting license revocation for certain violations](#)

6. Mandatory hunting license revocation for certain violations. The commissioner shall suspend a person's hunting license for at least one year and may suspend any other license issued under this Part and held by that person if that person is convicted of:

[12 MRSA §11152. Antlerless deer; regulation and authority to issue permits](#)