



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 275

H.P. 193

House of Representatives, February 5, 2015

An Act To Remove Crossbows from the Restriction on Discharging Weapons near Buildings

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WOOD of Sabattus.
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: HOBART of Bowdoinham, LYFORD of Eddington, SHAW of Standish,
SHORT of Pittsfield.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11209**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 538, §26, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§11209. Discharge of firearm near dwelling or building**

5 **1. Prohibition.** A person may not:

6 A. Unless a relevant municipal ordinance provides otherwise and except as provided
7 in sections 12401 and 12402, discharge a firearm, including a muzzle-loading
8 firearm, ~~or crossbow~~ or cause a projectile to pass as a result of that discharge within
9 100 yards of a building or residential dwelling without the permission of the owner
10 or, in the owner's absence, of an adult occupant of that building or dwelling
11 authorized to act on behalf of the owner; or

12 B. Possess a wild animal or wild bird taken in violation of this subsection, except as
13 otherwise provided in this Part.

14 This subsection may not be construed to prohibit a person from killing or taking a wild
15 animal in accordance with sections 12401 and 12402.

16 For purposes of this subsection, "building" means any residential, commercial, retail,
17 educational, religious or farm structure that is designed to be occupied by people or
18 domesticated animals or is being used to shelter machines or harvested crops.

19 For purposes of this subsection, "projectile" means a bullet, pellet, shot, shell, ball, ~~ball~~ or
20 other object propelled or launched from a firearm ~~or crossbow~~.

21 **2. Penalty.** A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 Current law prohibits discharging a crossbow within 100 yards of a building or a
24 residential dwelling without the permission of the owner or an authorized person. This
25 bill removes that restriction.