

## **NEW LAW THAT REQUIRES AN ARCHERY LICENSE WHEN HUNTING WITH ARCHERY EQUIPMENT IN 2017 AND WILL REQUIRE A BOW HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE**

- As of January 1, 2017 the department will enforce the requirement that a hunter wishing to hunt with bow and arrow hold a valid archery license.
- The law requires the archery hunters to successfully complete a bow hunter education course prior to purchasing an archery license or show proof of having held an adult archery license in any year after 1979; (Nonresidents who can show proof of having held a valid archery license in another state after 1979 or who can show proof of completion of a bow hunter education course from another state will be able to purchase a Maine archery license).
- Bow hunters who haven't already done so are strongly encouraged to complete a bow hunter education course in 2016.
- The law change will no longer allow exceptions to hunt with archery equipment on the firearms hunting license. (Previously an archery license was only required when hunting deer, with bow and arrow during the expanded archery season and special October archery season on deer.) Instead bow hunters must hold a valid archery license.
- Bow hunters can sign up for an education course in their area by going to:  
<http://www.maine.gov/ifw/education/safety/archery.htm>

Note: The department will be taking an educational approach on this change during 2016 to allow hunters time to complete a bow hunter education course. There will be several announcements sent out during the year reminding hunters to take a bow hunter education course this year in anticipation of the change in 2017. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife will be offering many of these courses throughout the State to accommodate hunters.

### **Actual Law Language within 12 MRSA**

#### **§10952, sub-§1 OPEN SEASONS FOR HUNTING WITH BOW AND ARROW AND CROSSBOW**

1. Hunting with a bow and arrow or a crossbow. A person may, except as otherwise provided in this Part, hunt any wild bird or wild animal with a hand-held bow and arrow during any open season on that bird or animal if the person holds a valid archery hunting license and may, except as otherwise provided in this Part, hunt any wild bird or wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that bird or animal if the person holds a valid archery license or hunting license and a valid crossbow hunting license.
2. Hunting with a crossbow; 70 years of age or older.

#### **§10953. OPEN SEASONS FOR HUNTING WITH CROSSBOW**

1. Species and seasons. A person may:
  - A. Hunt bear with a crossbow during the open season on bear as provided in section 11251;
  - B. Hunt wild turkey with a crossbow during the spring open season on wild turkey in areas open to wild turkey hunting as established by rule in section 11701;
  - C. Hunt moose with a crossbow in areas of the State open to moose hunting during the open season on moose established by rule in section 11552, subsections 1 and 2 and according to the rules pertaining to moose hunting

permits adopted by the commissioner for the protection of the moose resource under section 11551 and in accordance with the provisions of section 11601; and

D. Hunt deer with a crossbow during the open firearm season on deer as provided in section 11401.

1-A. Hunting with a crossbow; 70 years of age or older. Repealed

1-B. Hunting with a crossbow; 70 years of age or older. Repealed

1-C. Hunting with a crossbow; 70 years of age or older. A person 70 years of age or older may hunt a wild bird or a wild animal with a crossbow during any open season on that wild bird or wild animal, subject to this Part.

A person 70 years of age or older may hunt deer with a crossbow during a regular archery-only season established under section 11403 or in an expanded archery zone or during the muzzle-loading-only deer hunting season established under section 11404.

2. Rulemaking. Repealed.

3. Crossbow requirements. A person may not hunt with a crossbow unless the crossbow meets the following requirements.

A. The crossbow must have a shoulder-type stock. A hand-held pistol-type crossbow may not be used.

B. The draw weight of the crossbow may not be less than 100 pounds.

C. The arrowhead, including a mechanical broadhead when open, must be at least 7/8 inch in width.

D. A crossbow arrow that has an explosive or poisonous tip may not be used.

E. The crossbow must be equipped with a mechanical trigger safety device in working condition.

F. The crossbow may be equipped with a scope or sight.

A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime.

For the actual statute go to: <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/12/title12.pdf>