



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 543

H.P. 362

House of Representatives, February 11, 2025

**An Act to Enhance Maine's Wildlife Conservation Efforts and
Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage by Requiring Hunter Safety
Education in Schools**

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARDELL of Monticello.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, NUTTING of Oakland, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SWALLOW of Houlton, THORNE of Carmel,
Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, HARRINGTON of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4710-D** is enacted to read:

3 **§4710-D. Instruction in firearm hunter safety**

4 **1. Firearm hunter safety.** The elements of a firearm hunter safety course must be
5 taught in all public and private schools, and successful completion of the course is required
6 for graduation from all secondary schools. The course, or its elements, must be taught no
7 later than grade 9 and must address the following topics:

8 A. Survival and first aid practices;

9 B. Landowner relations;

10 C. Hunter ethics;

11 D. The State's hunting laws;

12 E. Hands-on practice of safe firearms handling;

13 F. Hands-on instruction of map and compass usage and outdoor survival; and

14 G. Wildlife conservation and biology.

15 **2. Successful completion; certificate.** A student who successfully completes a
16 firearm hunter safety course under this section is entitled to a hunter safety certificate
17 provided by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and satisfies the requirement
18 in Title 12, section 11105.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill adds a requirement that the elements of a firearm hunter safety course must
21 be taught no later than grade 9 in all public and private schools in Maine. Successful
22 completion of the course will result in the issuance to the student of a hunter safety
23 certificate that satisfies the safety course requirement for obtaining an adult hunting license
24 in Maine.