

*127th Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 6*

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**Testimony of Senator David Burns before the Joint Standing  
Committee on Marine Resources  
April 6, 2015**

**LD 1016, *An Act to Allow Retired Marine Patrol Officers to Obtain up  
to 2 Marine Fisheries Licenses***

Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega, Distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is David Burns and I represent Senate District 6 which includes all of Washington County and communities in Hancock County. I am before you today to present LD 1016, *An Act to Allow Retired Marine Patrol Officers to Obtain up to 2 Marine Fisheries Licenses*

I have brought this bill forward at the request of a retired Marine Patrol Officer who is also my constituent. This is the second time I have brought it forward, however the last time it did not get through Legislative Council as it did not qualify as an emergency.

Some of the Marine Patrol Officers who are retired would like the opportunity to be able to work commercially in the industries they spent their careers protecting and regulating. It is their position that because they were prohibited from holding any of the required licenses to do so during their entire 25 or so years as Maine Patrol Officers they should have consideration after retirement and be allowed one or two of these licenses in the limited entry fields.

I recall a similar situation with the IF&W Game Wardens. At one time the Wardens were not allowed to have license or legally trap fur bearing animals while they were employed as Wardens. Sometime during the 80's some of the Wardens contested that prohibition and were able to successfully overturn that rule. I don't recall if this was a court ruling or a change in policy.

I am told that many of our traditional lobstermen agree that retired Marine Patrol Officers should be allowed to take this short cut into the industry. However, I also know that not everyone agrees with this. I have been told by other lobstermen that they strongly object to this bill. As recent as yesterday, I talked with some of the lobstermen at my church and their opinions were not in favor.

I assume you will hear both pro and con arguments today. I think this request is worthy of your collective deliberation and wisdom, so I am leaving it in your hands.