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Date: (Filing No. S-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 49, L.D. 128, Bill, “An Act To Abolish the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1.

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 3 and 4 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10151, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

1. Appointment. The Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council, established by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 20 and referred to in this Part as the "advisory council," consists of 10 members representing the 16 counties of the State in the following manner: one member representing Androscoggin County, Kennebec County and Sagadahoc County; one member representing Aroostook County; one member representing Cumberland County; one member representing Franklin County and Oxford County; one member representing Hancock County; one member representing Knox County, Lincoln County and Waldo County; one member representing Penobscot County; one member representing Piscataquis County and Somerset County; one member representing Washington County; and one member representing York County. Members of the advisory council are appointed by the Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over fisheries and wildlife matters and to confirmation by the Legislature. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee is a nonvoting, ex officio member of the advisory council, but may vote to break a tie.

An employee of the department may not serve as a member of the advisory council prior to the expiration of one year from that employee's last day of employment with the department. A Legislator may not serve as a member of the advisory council. A former Legislator who was a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 jurisdiction over fisheries and wildlife matters may not serve as a member of the advisory
2 council prior to the expiration of one year from that former Legislator's last day of
3 membership on that committee.

4 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §10151, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 668, §2, is
5 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

6 **4. Duties.** The advisory council shall:

7 C. Hold regular meetings with the commissioner or the deputy commissioner to
8 provide information and advice on enhancing fisheries and wildlife resource
9 management in the State;

10 D. Form stakeholder groups with relevant areas of expertise to obtain information
11 and make recommendations on enhancing fisheries and wildlife resource
12 management in the State;

13 E. Convene stakeholder group meetings at least annually in areas of the State where
14 deer populations need to be enhanced;

15 F. Attend public hearings on rules proposed by the commissioner and make
16 recommendations based on public and stakeholder input regarding those rules; and

17 G. Provide and present a written annual summary of the advisory council's activities
18 and accomplishments to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
19 jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters.'

20 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 6.

21 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
22 section number to read consecutively.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This amendment is the majority report of the committee. The bill abolishes the
25 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council. This amendment instead amends the
26 laws governing the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council in order to realign the
27 advisory council's formal duties to convening stakeholder groups and providing
28 information and advice to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to enhance
29 fisheries and wildlife resource management in the State. With these revised duties, the
30 advisory council no longer renders to the commissioner information and advice
31 concerning the administration of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The
32 amendment retains the bill's provision removing the advisory council's authority upon
33 appeal to restore hunting license privileges to petitioners whose privileges have been
34 revoked or suspended and the restoration of which the commissioner has disallowed.
35 Further, where rulemaking is concerned, the advisory council no longer provides advice
36 and consent to the commissioner, which is a change made in the bill and retained by the
37 amendment, but the amendment adds that as part of its revised duties the advisory
38 committee makes recommendations based on public and stakeholder input to the

1 commissioner regarding rules. The amendment allows the commissioner's designee to be
2 a member of the advisory council. Finally, this amendment requires that the advisory
3 council provide and present annually a written summary of its activities and
4 accomplishments to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
5 over inland fisheries and wildlife matters.