

James Cote  
Maine Professional Guides Association  
LD 1042

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I would like to submit this testimony on behalf of the Maine Professional Guides Association neither for nor against LD 1042.

Professional Maine guides are supportive of passengers and clients wearing personal flotation devices (PFDs) and encourage safe boating practices.

However, Maine's current requirements for PFDs have been in place for many years and we believe have generally worked effectively. We believe that if the Legislature decides to make any change to the current requirements that some key considerations need to be addressed:

- 1) Be based on data- is there an actual demonstrated need to make a change?
- 2) Be drafted carefully to ensure that there are no unintended consequences? - is this the appropriate language?
- 3) If pursued, be given a significant runway for public education so that guides and members of the public are well aware of any change in PFD requirements before they go into effect.

We appreciate your consideration and I would be glad to participate in further discussion with the committee if that would be helpful.