



Brad Farrin
Senator, District 3

131st MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

**Testimony of Senator Brad Farrin
Presenting L.D. 731, An Act Regarding the Licensing of Persons to Conduct
Advance Deposit Wagering
Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
March 8, 2023**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: I am Brad Farrin and I have the honor of representing the people of Senate District 3, which includes towns in Kennebec, Somerset and Penobscot counties. I am before you today to present L.D. 731, *An Act Regarding the Licensing of Persons to Conduct Advance Deposit Wagering*.

While this may not be a new concept for some members of this committee, I want to start by taking a moment to explain Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW). ADW is a form of gambling where bets are placed on a horse race in person, by phone, online, or via a mobile device by an ADW account holder with a licensed ADW company.

The current system allows for only one ADW license holder in the State of Maine to be selected through a competitive bid process. As part of that process, a handful of ADW providers submitted proposals listing various levels of revenue that they would collect to be distributed in various ways. In May of 2020, the Maine Gambling Control Board approved the licensure of Penn ADW LLC, a subsidiary of Penn National Gaming, to accept wagers from Maine residents. The contract awarded was for five years – if the current law remained the same.

The bill before you repeals the provision of law stating only one entity can provide ADW in Maine and it does away with the competitive bid process. Instead, this would allow for commercial tracks, off-track betting facilities, and multijurisdictional account wagering providers to become licensed to conduct ADW in Maine pending they meet the required conditions for licensure.

In its original form, the bill also requires ADW licensees to remit one percent of gross wagering income to the Board for distribution. After hearing from some of the interested parties, I am proposing an amendment that would increase it from one percent to five percent. With more revenue coming in, more revenue can be distributed to the funds and entities outlined in the original law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.