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THE MAINE SENATE  
131st Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony of Senator Matt Pouliot**

***L.D 1186, Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Develop a  
Hunting and Fishing Software Application***

**April 19, 2023**

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I am Senator Matt Pouliot and I represent Senate District 15, which includes the towns of Augusta, Belgrade, China, Mount Vernon, Sidney and Vassalboro. I am here to present my bill, L.D 1186, *Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Develop a Hunting and Fishing Software Application*.

My bill is designed to direct a one-time appropriation of \$250,000 from the general fund to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the purpose of developing a software application that provides immediate access to public information. If passed, the department will be required to finalize its development by the end of 2024 and be ready for launch for the 2025 hunting and fishing seasons. The information available will encapsulate matters pertaining to hunting, fishing, licenses, permits, other relevant laws, outdoor conditions specific to region and activity being engaged in, and much more.

To this point, the collective desire for a tool like this is palpable. The Department has already received almost 9,000 survey responses for this proposal along with a host of enthusiastic

Facebook comments. The good people of Maine share a rich history of outdoorsmanship and likewise overwhelmingly wish to ensure they enjoy a level playing field and are in compliance with the various statutes in place, which, even to the most experienced among us, can be a tall order to fulfill. It stands to reason that if we in Augusta craft and codify certain standards of conduct, then Maine citizens ought to be equipped with the necessary tools and information to follow through on those standards - especially considering that, in many instances, individuals may be in violation merely because of innocent ignorance of rules and regulations that are somewhat obscure and abstruse. This application is poised to lift unnecessary burdens from citizens and law enforcement alike and improve outdoor experiences across the board.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.