

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 2

Senator Harold 'Trey' Stewart, III
Senate Republican Leader
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**LD 2194, "An Act to Clarify When a Wounded Game Animal May Be
Dispatched by an Authorized Licensed Guide"**

**Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
February 14, 2024**

Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

My name is Trey Stewart; and I represent Senate District 2, which includes several communities in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties. I am here today to introduce LD 2194, "*An Act to Clarify When a Wounded Game Animal May Be Dispatched by an Authorized Licensed Guide.*"

This by-request proposal was submitted after I was contacted by Mr. Dave Hentosh. It is my understanding that Mr. Hentosh will be testifying today and will explain a situation that prompted this measure.

To provide a brief background, it was relayed to me that Maine law doesn't explicitly allow for a licensed guide to dispatch an animal during legal hunting hours. In Chapter 927 of Title 12, Section 12862, "...the commissioner may authorize a person licensed to guide hunters under section 12853 whose client during a guided hunt wounds or kills a bear, deer or moose to track and dispatch that animal outside of legal hunting hours." I was told this is where the discrepancy lies. Removing the words *outside of legal hunting hours* would allow a guide to dispatch an animal at any time.

Again, I am confident Mr. Hentosh will provide you with his explanation as to what happened and why he feels this change is needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.