

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 72**

“An Act to Designate the Spring Peeper as the Official State Amphibian”

SPONSORED BY: Representative OSHER of Orono.

COSPONSORED BY: Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representative: ANKELES of Brunswick, Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, February 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee. I am Phillip DeMaynadier, Wildlife Diversity Section Supervisor at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of L.D. 72.

This bill designates the spring peeper as the official state amphibian.

Many states designate official species (e.g., state tree, flower, bird, etc.) as a way of showing pride in their natural heritage and for raising public awareness of a particular species group. For example, the 131st legislature recently designated the Pink-edged Sulphur as the official state butterfly. This bill would designate the Spring Peeper (1 of 9 native frogs in Maine) as the official state amphibian of Maine. The Department recommends support for this designation as Maine does not have a state amphibian, and to our knowledge no other U.S. jurisdiction has designated this species. The Spring Peeper is also a good choice because it is common, widely distributed, and well-known to most Mainer's -- if not by sight, then by sound, with a sleighbell-like chorus signaling the arrival of another Maine spring.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.