

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
IN OPPOSITION TO
L.D. 552**

**“An Act to Create an Outfitter License for Owners and Operators of Hunting, Fishing and
Recreational Businesses That Are Not Maine Guides”**

Presented by: Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, February 24, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Dan Scott, Colonel of the Maine Warden Service speaking on behalf of Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in opposition to **L.D. 552**.

This bill changes the legal definition of a Guide, creates a definition of an Outfitter and establishes a new Outfitter license.

The bill would change the definition of a guide significantly, which the Department feels is problematic. Currently, a guide is defined as anyone who receives any form of payment for accompanying or assisting a person in the fields or forests or on the waters or ice in Maine. The bill proposes to remove the receipt of payment from the definition of a guide. This would mean, for example, that when a person takes a friend fishing or hunting it would be considered guiding and would require a Guide license. In addition, the bill also proposes that the term “when training is essential for the safety of the activity” be added to the definition of a guide. This proposal would open a whole area of discussion as to what activities might require safety training.

The bill also proposes to create the definition of an Outfitter and establish a new Outfitter license. The Department feels that this would be a burden on business owners and sees no good reason to do so.

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