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Testimony on
L.D. 851, “*An Act to Establish a Senior Retiree Lobster License*”

Presented by
Representative Robert A. Foley
District 145

Marine Resources Committee
Thursday, March 20, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:

I am State Representative Bob Foley, and I represent the citizens of District 145, which is most of the Town of Wells. I’m here today to introduce my bill, L.D. 851, “*An Act to Establish a Senior Retiree Lobster License*.”

This bill comes to you at the request of one of my constituents -- the Town of Wells Harbor Master, Mike York. The idea stems from a time, many years ago, when Mike had his Maine lobster license back in the mid-1970s. When he joined the service and left Maine, he gave up his lobster license, as he no longer had any ability to utilize it. When he returned to Maine after his time in the service, he entered the workforce and eventually became a harbor master. Mike investigated renewing his lobster license, but at that time, as I understand it, there was a moratorium on new licenses.

As Mike thought about retirement, he thought “*lobstering*” would be something that he, and several others in his same situation, might be able to do to supplement his income.

The criteria for obtaining a “*senior retiree lobster license*” is quite restrictive. A person must be at least 65 years of age, be a resident of this state for a minimum of 10 years, and have previously held a commercial lobster and crab fishing license for more than three consecutive years. The individual cannot submerge more than 100 traps, and can only set traps from May 1 through December 1.

This is a limited bill, which will help a retired Mainer, who meets the criteria, earn some supplemental income during their retirement years.

Thank you for your consideration.