



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 3, 2025

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF:

***LD 1094, "An Act to Prohibit a Person from Obtaining an Elver Dealer's License for a Minimum of 5 Years in Cases of Repeat Violations of License Conditions"***

**THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler and fellow distinguished members of the Marine Resources Committee. I am Representative Abden Simmons representing the towns of Bremen, Waldoboro, Friendship, Louds Island Township, and Washington. I am here today to introduce my bill LD 964, "An Act to Prohibit a Person from Obtaining an Elver Dealer's License for a Minimum of 5 Years in Cases of Repeat Violations of License Conditions."

This bill fixes a problem that has been going on for years. An elver dealer gets caught illegally purchasing elvers at a facility and loses their license. However, a new person can acquire a license and use the same facility. When a facility has violated elver laws multiple times it can still be used. This bill will prevent this from happening.

I have spoken with some elver dealers and they are in support of this bill. This is a lucrative industry that needs protection on both sides, dealers and fishermen. This bill holds dealers accountable for intentionally trying to bypass the regulations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abden Simmons".

Abden Simmons  
State Representative

Proudly Serving House District 45  
Friendship/ Washington/ Bremen/ Louds Island Township/ Waldoboro