



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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15 Apr 25

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: LD 1430, An Act to Promote the Welfare of Disabled Veterans Through the Transfer of Moose Permits

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife,

1. Thank you for allowing me to bring forth my bill, An Act to Promote the Welfare of Disabled Veterans Through the Transfer of Moose Permits.
2. For a disabled veteran, the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities can be a very therapeutic experience. The ability to connect with other veterans in sportsman's activities has proven itself to offer relief for numerous veterans who suffer from the post traumatic stress syndrome caused by the unique stresses of combat. Additionally it allows warriors a normalizing experience surrounded by their peers. We know this from the abundant number of successful Veteran Service Organizations that utilize outdoors experiences in Maine, including hunting. My wife and I, both veterans, have personally benefited from participating in bird hunts organized by a Veterans Service Organizations.
3. As members of this committee, I am sure you are aware that after successfully having drawn a moose tag in the State of Maine one must wait for three years before being eligible to apply for another permit or to start collecting points.
4. This bill simply allows for the transfer of a moose tag by a Registered Maine Guide, Veteran Service Organization, or an employee or volunteer of such an organization, to a disabled veteran and

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then waives the three year waiting period for the person who donated the tag before they are eligible to collect points or apply for a new permit.

5. By allowing this, it would expand the therapeutic outdoors activities available to disabled veterans drastically without seriously altering the current lottery system by encouraging the transfer of tags to disabled veterans.

6. This bill would not increase the number of overall tags allocated, the person donating their tag would still have their points reset, it would not change the rules for hunters 65 years and older, and it would not change the bonus point system in any way. As such, while it would waive the three year waiting period, I do not believe that it would significantly alter the odds for others in being drawn for a tag.

7. I encourage the committee to consider this legislation and support it with a vote of 'Ought To Pass'. I thank you for your time and will gladly answer any questions to my ability.

Respectfully,



Rep. Chad R. Perkins
District 31

ATT:

CF:

Committee Chair Senator Baldacci
Committee Chair Representative Roberts
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee Members

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