



James Dill

72 Sunset Drive

Old Town, ME 04468

Phone: 207-827-3498

James.Dill@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Testimony of Rep. James Dill

**L.D. 1012 “An Act to Fund the Operations of the University
of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory”**

Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Jim Dill, and I represent House District 26 and the communities of Bradley, Old Town and Penobscot Nation Voting District. I am here before you today to testify in support of **LD 1012 “An Act to Fund the Operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory”**.

I'd like to start by thanking Legislature for the ongoing support of \$250,000 for the tick lab. This was an amount that Approps gave to offset the repeal of 15 cents fee on a pesticide container in 2021, some of which went to the tick lab. The goal was to realize around \$600,000 for the lab from the fee. There were issues with assessing the fee and, of course, some people objected to the fee, although it was going to an interesting cause. So, it was repealed and the Governor put \$500,000 in the budget for the lab to offset the loss, but it was cut in half by Approps.

The 15 cents was repealed for a couple of reasons. It was a tax that everyone had to pay- scratch off is again voluntary. It was also quite difficult to determine by UPC code which product was actually a pesticide. I won't elaborate on the whole concept of UPC codes and its issues! This new method of funding is strictly voluntary—a scratch off ticket. So, this is a fairer system.

I'm sure you will hear from someone from BABLO saying that scratch offs have a limited pot, and it is already split 35 ways (or whatever the number of tickets in play are). Adding this ticket will just split the same pot 36 ways, so the funds are lost from where they go now, unless, of course, this new game brings in enough funds to pay for itself. Therefore, there may be a fiscal note.

District 26: Bradley, Old Town and Penobscot Indian Island

Let's explore this. I contend a fiscal note can't be readily determined for the following reasons: It's a \$4 ticket; we don't have one. I don't know why, but the gaming group probably does. So, it will be unique. I talked to many current scratch off players who said they'd most likely hand over a \$5 bill and buy one Tick-it and say give me a dollar one also. Same with a \$10 bill – two \$4s and a \$2 or two \$1s. So, sales could actually increase with other small games.

I've also talked to many non-players who say they would buy Tick-its, because **they hate ticks**, and this is a great cause. How many newbies; how many will they buy; how long will they play??? The proceeds are also initially split 50/50 with the general fund. In about 3 years (December 15, 2028), there will be a report back to the committee to determine how to proceed with the game. The hope is to achieve a minimum of \$350,000 annually to the lab. I must say that most people I've talked to about this new game would prefer all proceeds to go to the tick program.

My one concern with the bill (page 3, Line 3) is under Section 4 D: is further amended to read...

For payment to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund pursuant to Title 12, section 10302. I'm not sure why this is here.

Finally, I'd like to introduce you to Simon (at least his current rendition). ^{They} ~~We~~ hope to do an educational program around Simon. Simon says: "Do a tick check". Simon says: "Wear light colored clothing". You get the gist. The idea is to relate Simon, the educator, back to Simon, the promoter, on the Tick-it. If the connection is made, then perhaps more people will buy the Tick-it. ^{They} ~~We~~ also hope to produce some animated videos featuring Simon and his Family, with a back ground song.

Perhaps you are familiar with Simon and Garfunkel's song, Scarborough Fair? Well, this song is called Simon's Lair! Here is the first verse comparison:

Simon & Garfunkel

Are you going to Scarborough Fair?
Parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme
Remember me to one who lives there
For once she was a true love of mine

Are you going to walk in the woods?
Pugsley, Gage, Rosemary, and Lyme
Be wary of one who may live there
For once she finds you she'll likely dine

I urge you to support this bill, because **everyone hates ticks!!**
I'd be happy to try to answer any questions. Thank you.

\$4

TICK-IT



MADE
TICK-IT
FUND

See
ticket
back for
instructions.

WINNING
NUMBERS



YOUR NUMBERS



WIN UP TO
\$65,000!

021

SCRATCH
TO
CASH

\$4

TICK-IT



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TICK-IT
FUND

See
ticket
back for
instructions.

WINNING
NUMBERS



YOUR NUMBERS

10	15	10
TEN	TEN	TEN
\$4.00	\$6.00	\$4.00
TEN DOL.	TEN DOL.	TEN DOL.
13	19	21
THIRTY	NINETEEN	TWENTY-ONE
\$20.00	\$50.00	\$5.00
TWENTY DOL.	FIFTY DOL.	FIVE DOL.
\$500	\$500	\$500
FIVE HUNDRED	FIVE HUNDRED	FIVE HUNDRED

WIN UP TO
\$65,000!

021

SCRATCH
TO
CASH