



Morgan Rielly

Phone: (207) 228-5767

Morgan.Rielly@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

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Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly introducing
LD 2025, An Act to Create a Limited-purpose License for Aquaculture
Nursery and Husbandry Activities and to Clarify the Aquaculture Lease
Amendment Process

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

Good morning, Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. I am Morgan Rielly and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce, on behalf of the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), **LD 2025, An Act to Create a Limited-purpose License for Aquaculture Nursery and Husbandry Activities and to Clarify the Aquaculture Lease Amendment Process**.

Last year I introduced **LD 1596** to help address the red tape facing our sea farmers regarding the amendment process. We turned that bill into a study in order to give the Aquaculture Advisory Council and DMR time to come to a consensus on how to address many of the issues brought up in the public hearing, while maintaining the high environmental and public trust standards Maine is known for. **LD 2025** embodies the spirit of **LD 1596** and has the consensus of the department and the council.

In short summary, this bill as currently written aims to achieve two outcomes:

1. Establish a limited-purpose aquaculture license that allows for nursery and husbandry activities in coastal waters under specified conditions; and
2. Clarify and modernize the process for amending aquaculture leases, making it more transparent and practical for sea farmers to responsibly add species, gear, equipment or structures.

While I was not a member of Aquaculture Advisory Council meetings, DMR and the council members present can provide background on the specifics of the bill and how they came to the language in it.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.