

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Date: March 7, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
From: Rachel Olson, Legislative Analyst
Re: LD 404, "An Act To Preserve Deer Habitat" (Johansen)

Bill Summary

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This emergency bill proposes to direct the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to submit a deer management plan and a map of deer wintering areas to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to work with the committee to develop a plan to protect deer wintering areas.

Testimony:

Proponents: Rep. Chris Johansen, sponsor; Mary Throckmorton;

- Asking committee to please direct the department to work with the many experts and stakeholders to develop a plan to protect deer herd in Maine
- Concerned about the impact of timber harvesting on wildlife habitat and especially on Deer Wintering Areas – suggests offering incentives to landowners to not cut and other ideas to protect deer wintering habitat

Opponents: None

Neither for nor against: Nate Webb, DIFW;

- Outlined the current efforts to conserve Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs) and the management strategies related to DWAs identified in the Big Game Management Plan (2016), which fall into three categories: Habitat Management, Surveys/Assessment, and Predation Management

Other Considerations: This is a concept draft. If the committee would like to recommend passage of a concept draft, the committee must report out a committee amendment with fully drafted language.

Fiscal Impact: Not Yet Determined

Links: [LD 404 \(original bill\)](#)