

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 1965

**“An Act To Create Higher Standards for State-owned and State managed Land
for Deer Management”**

PRESENTED BY: Senator JACKSON of Aroostook

DATE OF HEARING: February 28, 2022

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Landry and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Nate Webb, Wildlife Division Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, neither for nor against **L.D. 1965**.

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 and would create higher standards for state-owned and state-managed land for the purpose of deer management. The Department will need more information on the intent and scope of this bill before we are able to determine our position or provide additional information to the Committee. As a reminder, last session Public Chaptered Law 409 “An Act to Preserve Deer Habitat” was passed into law. As a result, the Department is actively pursuing the acquisition of deer wintering areas in northern, eastern, and western Maine. Once acquired, these properties will be added to our system of Wildlife Management Areas and managed by our staff of licensed foresters and professional wildlife biologists with deer habitat as the highest priority.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.