

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND
WILDLIFE**

IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 6

“An Act to Allow Persons to Label Their Wild Animal Traps with Their Online Identification Number Issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife”

SPONSORED BY: Senator Black of Franklin

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, February 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Dan Scott, Colonel for the Maine Warden Service at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of L.D. 6 An Act to Allow Persons to Label Their Wild Animal Traps with Their Online Identification Number Issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Title 12 Section 12254 Labeling Traps – reads – *A person may not set a trap for any wild animal without having the trap plainly labeled with that person’s full name and address.*

Failure to do so is a civil violation with a fine from \$100 - \$500.

The purpose of this statute is to allow wardens and / or landowners to be able to identify the owner of a trap in such a case where there is a problem, or the trap is set in violation.

This bill would expand this statute to allow that label to be the person’s online licensing system identification number issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), in place of that person's full name and address.

Labeling a trap with a permanent online licensing system identification number (i.e. a MOSES ID or a trapping license number) still allows a warden, with limited additional effort, to determine to whom the trap belongs.

There have been concerns that a person inspecting a trap tag can immediately tell who an otherwise legal trapper is and where they reside, raising potential personal safety concerns. Labeling a trap with a MDIFW online license number would require a person

to contact a warden to determine to whom a trap belongs, reducing the concern that a person may try to contact a trapper directly.

The only amendment we would offer is that the bill as written speaks to that person's ***hunting, fishing and trapping*** online licensing system identification number issued by the department. There is no instance where it would be legal to set a trap with a hunting or fishing license number. I would offer we strike the terms hunting and fishing and use the phrase ***Online license system trapping identification number***.

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