

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 528**

**An Act To Increase the Number of Clubs in Penobscot County That May Be Issued
a Special Dog Training Area License**

SPONSORED BY: Representative DUNPHY of Old Town

CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator DILL of Penobscot and
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, DRINKWATER of Milford, FAY of Raymond,
KINNEY of Knox, MARTIN of Sinclair, RYKERSON of Kittery, TALBOT ROSS of
Portland.

DATE OF HEARING: February 20, 2019

Good afternoon Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Tim Peabody, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of **L.D. 528**.

This bill increases the number of clubs in Penobscot County that may be issued a special dog training area license for training hunting dogs from 5 to 8.

The Department supports the notion of allowing more flexibility to increase the number of dog training area licenses within each county. This is a law that was established in 1951 and originally allowed 2 dog training areas in each county. In 1985 the number was increased to 5 per a county. Due to an administrative error in the past 10 or 15 years, Penobscot County has been allowed 7 licenses for a number of years and our understanding is that at least one person has waited for a license to become available for several years. Our historical understanding is that these licenses were limited to keep the number of field trial locations and training areas competitive. We have found no strong reason at this time to oppose the suggested increase. As you consider this bill, we would offer that making a consistent number across the state instead of making an exemption for one county to exceed the 5 licenses, would reduce confusion.

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