

**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. 1488

**“An Act To Allow Holders of Gold Star Family Registration Plates To Be Issued
Complimentary Licenses To Hunt, Trap and Fish”**

SPONSORED BY: Representative FECTEAU of Augusta

CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and
Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, DRINKWATER of Milford,
FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FOSTER of Dexter, HANINGTON of Lincoln.

DATE OF HEARING: April 24, 2019

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, Director of Licensing and Registration at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, neither for nor against **L.D. 1488**.

L.D. 1488 allows the holder of a registration certificate and a set of gold star family registration plates pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 524-B to be issued a complimentary license to hunt, trap and fish, including permits, stamps and other permissions needed to hunt.

The language proposed does not specify whether this is a lifetime license or a complimentary license that would be issued annually to the recipient. In either case it is a fiscal impact to the agency. After speaking with the Secretary of State, there are 200 active Goldstar plates and 103 of those have registrations with a second person named, so roughly 300 people could benefit from a lifetime license with this plate currently.

At this time, there is no tangible benefit to having the plate. However, if this passed into law it may provide an incentive for those eligible to apply for this registration plate in order to receive the benefit of a complimentary license by our agency. If this is supported by the Committee we would ask you to consider this be a lifetime license so that the Department would only have to issue the license once to each recipient, not annually.

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