

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 163

Date: 3/7/24 Majority

(Filing No. H-811)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 104, L.D. 163, "An Act to Increase Communication Between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Lifetime License Holders by Requiring Free License Renewals Under Certain Circumstances"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10851-A is enacted to read:

§10851-A. Annual renewal of lifetime licenses required

1. Annual renewal required; lifetime license purchased after December 31, 2024. Beginning January 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, a person with a lifetime license that was purchased after December 31, 2024 under section 10851 who is 16 years of age or older shall notify the department of the license holder's intent to hunt, trap or fish in accordance with that license by completing in that year a renewal process with the department. The license holder is not required to notify the department during a year in which the license holder does not intend to hunt, trap or fish.

2. No renewal fee. The department may not assess a fee for a renewal of a lifetime license completed under this section. An agent appointed by the commissioner pursuant to section 10801 may charge a fee for the annual lifetime license renewal.

3. Rules. The department may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Outreach; online notification process. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall establish an online notification process to educate lifetime license holders about the annual lifetime license renewal requirement pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10851-A. The commissioner may use additional outreach initiatives to promote awareness and understanding of the annual renewal requirement among the lifetime license holder community, including outreach to encourage

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 lifetime license holders who purchased a lifetime license on or before December 31, 2024
2 to voluntarily participate in the annual renewal process.

3 **Sec. 3. Report.** By February 1, 2027, the Department of Inland Fisheries and
4 Wildlife shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
5 jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters that describes the online notification
6 process and any additional outreach initiatives used by the department under section 2 to
7 gauge user participation and obtain up-to-date user information. The department shall
8 include in its report information on the efficacy of enacting a reporting requirement for
9 lifetime license holders that does not carry a penalty and recommended changes, if any.
10 The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.'

11 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
12 number to read consecutively.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment requires a person who purchases a
15 lifetime license to hunt, trap or fish after December 31, 2024 and who is 16 years of age or
16 older to notify the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in each year the license
17 holder intends to use the license by completing a renewal process with the department in
18 the same year that person intends to use the license. The amendment directs the
19 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to encourage a lifetime license holder who
20 purchased a lifetime license to hunt, trap or fish on or prior to December 31, 2024 to
21 participate in the renewal process. It specifies that the department may not charge a fee for
22 the annual renewal of a lifetime license.

23 The amendment directs the department to submit, by February 1, 2027, a report to the
24 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and
25 wildlife matters that describes the online notification process and any additional outreach
26 initiatives used by the department to gauge user participation and obtain up-to-date user
27 information. The department must include in its report information on the efficacy of
28 enacting a reporting requirement for lifetime license holders that does not carry a penalty
29 and recommended changes, if any. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based
30 on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

31 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
32 (See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 163

LR 102(02)

An Act to Increase Communication Between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Lifetime License Holders by Requiring Free License Renewals Under Certain Circumstances

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-811)

Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to implement the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.