

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

IN OPPOSITION to L.D. 1263

**An Act to Increase Funding for the Snowmobile Trail
Fund and Adjust the Sales Tax Relating to Snowmobiles and Trail-
Grooming Equipment**

SPONSORED BY: Representative STANLEY of Medway

DATE OF HEARING: April 23, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, Director of the Licensing Division at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking in opposition to **L.D. 1263**.

L.D. 1263 increases the resident snowmobile registration fee to \$50 if registered before January 1st and \$60 if registered on or after January 1st. The bill proposes to dedicate the resident fee increases to the Snowmobile Trail Fund. The bill also changes the distribution of funds for resident snowmobile registrations such that funds would no longer be distributed to towns but rather would be distributed to the Snowmobile Trail Fund. L.D. 1263 would also increase the nonresident season snowmobile registration fee to \$98 if registered before January 1st and \$108 if registered on or after January 1st. While the summary section of the bill directs that all revenue raised from the proposed registration increases be deposited in the Snowmobile Trail Fund, the bill does not change all places in the law necessary to do this for the nonresident registrations. If the Committee decides to move forward with this legislation, this would need to be corrected. L.D. 1263 would also increase the nonresident 3-day registration by \$7 and creates a new nonresident 7-day registration for \$75. Lastly, the bill would require that the sales tax from the private sales of snowmobiles be transmitted to the Snowmobile Trail Fund as opposed to the Treasurer of State where it goes currently along with the sales tax from all other private sales of recreational vehicles.

The Department feels that this proposal would complicate the snowmobile registration process for our customers, our agents, and IF&W personnel. The Department understands the need to increase funding to snowmobile clubs for trail maintenance but it is opposed to this method of doing so because it is a direct fee increase. The provision requiring the sales tax from the private sale of snowmobiles to be transmitted to the Snowmobile Trail Fund as opposed to the Treasurer of State where it currently goes would increase the administrative burden on the Department's accounting resources.

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