



## MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 2013

To: Senator Dutremble Chair  
Representative Shaw Chair  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

From: Chandler Woodcock, Commissioner

Subject: Letter regarding L.D. 775 in lieu of testimony.

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Dear Committee Members,

LD 775 would require a nonresident sea duck hunter to hire and be accompanied by a licensed Maine guide.

The department would like to offer some information relevant to the bill. The Maine Legislature recently repealed a law which required alien big game hunters from Quebec and New Brunswick to hire Maine guides. Currently the only hunting related activity requiring a nonresident to hire the services of a Maine guide is if the hunter is utilizing hounds to run bear during the hunt. The only exception to this is if the hunter possesses a Maine guide license.

The Maine Warden Service has not responded to an excessive amount of complaints or search and rescue missions related to sea duck hunters.

The department would always recommend the hiring of a Maine guide when recreating in Maine, but does not want to discourage nonresidents from coming to the state if they are prepared to hunt, on their own, without the assistance of a Maine guide.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact Christl Theriault, Assistant to the Commissioner at 287-1197 or Becky Orff, Secretary in the Commissioner's Office at 287-5202.