

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Date: March 2, 2021

To: Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

From: Rachel Olson, Legislative Analyst

Re: LD 294, "An Act To Simplify the Any-deer Permit Distribution System by Including the Ability To Purchase Additional Permits" (Landry)

Summary:

This bill allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to offer for direct purchase antlerless deer permits in certain wildlife management districts as the commissioner finds necessary based on deer populations and deer health.

Testimony:

Proponents: Rep. Scott Landry, sponsor; Eric Venturini, Wild Blueberry Commission of ME;

Opponents: None

Neither for nor against: Nate Webb, DIFW; David Trahan, SAM-ILA

Possible Amendments:

- Nate Webb (DIFW) asked, in his testimony, that the committee consider authorizing the Department to work with stakeholders to review the current antlerless deer permit system and develop recommendation to ensure it meets three primary goals: effective management of deer population, ensuring equitable distribution of hunting opportunity, and minimizing administrative complexity and costs.

Fiscal Impact:

- Fiscal Status: Not Yet Determined

Bill Text & Current Statute:

[LD 294](#)

[12 MRSA §11152. Antlerless deer; regulation and authority to issue permits](#)

3. Rulemaking. The commissioner may adopt rules necessary for the administration, implementation, enforcement and interpretation of this section, except that the commissioner is not authorized to establish an antlerless deer permit system unless otherwise specified in this section. The commissioner may appoint clerks or agents under section 10801 to process applications for permits issued under this section. A clerk or agent appointed by the commissioner to process applications shall charge a fee of \$2 for each application processed by that clerk or agent under this section. Rules adopted by the commissioner that provide for permits to be issued to nonresident hunters must provide that:

A. [PL 2011, c. 533, §3 (RP).]

B. No more than 15% of the antlerless deer permits issued in any one district or in any one zone may be issued to nonresident hunters. [PL 2017, c. 427, §10 (AMD); PL 2017, c. 427, §19 (AFF).]

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in [Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A](#).