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Date: (Filing No. H-)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 825, L.D. 1113, Bill, “An Act To Encourage Fishing for Individuals with Disabilities”

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

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect immediately so that persons with disabilities who need assistance to fish can get that assistance from a caregiver during this fishing season; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10853, sub-§15 is enacted to read:

15. Assisting a person with disabilities. The commissioner may allow a licensee who has received a complimentary fishing license under subsection 2, 3, 4, 7, 10 or 12 to have a person accompany and assist that licensee in fishing. The person accompanying and assisting the holder of a complimentary fishing license as provided in this subsection may do so without obtaining a separate fishing license. This subsection does not authorize the person accompanying and assisting the licensee to assist that licensee with more than one fishing rod and reel. The person accompanying and assisting the licensee must remain within the immediate proximity of the licensee while that licensee is fishing.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and does the following:

1. It adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill; and
2. It provides that the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may allow a person to accompany and assist a blind resident, a paraplegic resident, a resident disabled veteran, a person with an acquired brain injury, a patient or inmate residing in a state institution or a person with a developmental disability who has a complimentary fishing license to fish without obtaining a separate fishing license.