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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 538, L.D. 1319, “An Act to Exempt Certain Boat Operators from Having to Become Maine Guides”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12853, sub-§7, ¶D** is enacted to read:

D. A person who has satisfactorily completed a boater safety education course under section 13063 and is certified in first aid under subsection 4, paragraph C may, without a guide license, operate a watercraft in the course of employment with a seasonal business engaged in recreational tow-sport activities if that seasonal business was engaged in recreational tow-sport activities during the 2022 season. This paragraph is repealed January 15, 2024.

**Sec. 2. Review.** The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall establish a stakeholder group to examine the guide requirements for recreational sports.

**Sec. 3. Stakeholder group.** The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall ensure that the stakeholder group established under section 2 is as broadly representative of interested parties and groups as possible and shall invite participation from at least the following: the Maine Professional Guides Association, the Maine Marine Trades Association and governmental and nongovernmental organizations related to recreational tow sports in this State.

**Sec. 4. Report.** The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group established under section 2 to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than January 15, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to recreational guide requirements to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.'

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

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment allows a person to operate a watercraft in the course of employment with a seasonal business engaged in recreational tow-sport activities if that seasonal business was engaged in recreational tow-sport activities during the 2022 season. The amendment also directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a stakeholder group to examine the guide requirements for recreational sports. The amendment also directs the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 15, 2024 and authorizes the committee to report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**