

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 72

“An Act to Designate the Spring Peeper as the Official State Amphibian”

SPONSORED BY: Representative OSHER of Orono.

COSPONSORED BY: Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representative: ANKELES of Brunswick, Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, February 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee. I am Phillip DeMaynadier, Wildlife Diversity Section Supervisor at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of **L.D. 72**.

This bill designates the spring peeper as the official state amphibian.

Many states designate official species (e.g., state tree, flower, bird, etc.) as a way of showing pride in their natural heritage and for raising public awareness of a particular species group. For example, the 131st legislature recently designated the Pink-edged Sulphur as the official state butterfly. This bill would designate the Spring Peeper (1 of 9 native frogs in Maine) as the official state amphibian of Maine. The Department recommends support for this designation as Maine does not have a state amphibian, and to our knowledge no other U.S. jurisdiction has designated this species. The Spring Peeper is also a good choice because it is common, widely distributed, and well-known to most Mainer's -- if not by sight, then by sound, with a sleighbell-like chorus signaling the arrival of another Maine spring.

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