

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 230

6  
7 H.P. 196

House of Representatives, January 29, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered  
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Crowley of Stockton Springs.

11 Cosponsored by Representative McGowan of Canaan and Representative  
Ruhlin of Brewer.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
16

17 AN ACT to Repeal the Maximum Length Lobster  
18 Measurement.  
19

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

22 12 MRSA §6431, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1977, c.  
23 661, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its  
24 place:

25 1. Minimum and maximum length. It shall be un-  
26 lawful to buy, sell, give away, transport, ship or  
27 possess any lobster which is less than 3 3/16 inches  
28 in length, as determined by the state lobster gauge  
29 measure.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2           This bill repeals the 5-inch maximum length lob-  
3 ster measurement. This will create a more competitive  
4 environment for the marketing of Maine lobsters, lob-  
5 ster meat and other lobster products outside the  
6 State. Being the only state to have a maximum size  
7 limit on lobsters prohibits Maine lobstermen from en-  
8 gaging in offshore lobstering and deprives them of  
9 the opportunity to increase their catch while out-  
10 of-state lobstermen utilize our resources for their  
11 own profit. It has not been clearly demonstrated or  
12 scientifically proven that retention of the 5-inch  
13 measure has helped to preserve the source of lobsters  
14 or acted as a conservation measure.

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