

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 851

H.P. 537

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

An Act to Establish a Senior Retiree Lobster License

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FOLEY of Wells.
Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and
Representatives: MORRIS of Turner, OLSEN of Raymond, PARRY of Arundel.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 568, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Licensed activity.** The holder of a Class I, Class II, Class III, apprentice, senior
5 retiree or student lobster and crab fishing license may fish for, take, possess, ship or
6 transport within the State lobsters or crabs and sell lobsters or crabs the license holder has
7 taken. The license does not authorize the license holder to remove lobster meat from the
8 shell or to take, possess, transport or ship lobster parts or meat. The holder of a Class II or
9 Class III license is liable for the licensed activities under this subsection of all unlicensed
10 crew members assisting that licensee.

11 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§3-A, ¶G** is enacted to read:

12 G. A senior retiree lobster and crab fishing license authorizes the license holder to
13 engage in the licensed activities under subsection 2. A person issued a senior retiree
14 lobster and crab fishing license may not submerge at any one time more than 100
15 lobster traps in the coastal waters of the State. A person issued a senior retiree lobster
16 and crab fishing license may not set traps before May 1st and must remove all traps by
17 December 1st.

18 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5-F** is enacted to read:

19 **5-F. Senior retiree lobster and crab fishing license eligibility.** A senior retiree
20 lobster and crab fishing license may be issued only to a person who, at the time of
21 application, is 65 years of age or older, has been a resident of the State for a minimum of
22 10 years and previously held a commercial lobster and crab fishing license for 3 or more
23 consecutive years.

24 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§7-B, ¶Q**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 575, §1, is
25 further amended to read:

26 Q. For a noncommercial lobster and crab fishing license, \$60, except as provided in
27 subsection 7-D; ~~and~~

28 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§7-B, ¶R**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. EEEEE,
29 §3, is amended to read:

30 R. For a nonresident lobster and crab landing permit, \$590.25; and

31 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§7-B, ¶S** is enacted to read:

32 S. For a senior retiree lobster and crab fishing license, \$60.

33 **Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §6446, sub-§1-A**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 68, §5, is further
34 amended to read:

35 **1-A. Declared lobster zone; authorized zones.** On an application for a Class I, Class
36 II, Class III, senior retiree, student or noncommercial lobster and crab fishing license or a
37 nonresident lobster and crab landing permit, a person shall declare the lobster management
38 zone in which that person proposes to fish a majority of that person's lobster traps and shall
39 list all other zones in which that person proposes to fish any of that person's lobster traps.
40 A Class I, Class II, Class III, senior retiree, student or noncommercial lobster and crab
41 fishing license or a nonresident lobster and crab landing permit must identify the declared

1 lobster zone in which the person is authorized to fish a majority of that person's lobster
2 traps and must identify all other zones in which a person is authorized to fish that person's
3 traps. A person may not place any lobster traps in a zone that is not identified on that
4 person's license. For the purposes of this subsection, the majority of a person's lobster traps
5 must be determined from the number of trap tags issued to that person.

6 **SUMMARY**

7 This bill creates a senior retiree lobster and crab fishing license, establishes eligibility
8 requirements for the license, sets regulations about trap count and placement and fishing
9 dates for license holders and sets a license fee at \$60.