

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1708

H.P. 1143

House of Representatives, April 17, 2025

**An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further  
Develop Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and  
Other Watercraft and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative STROUT of Harrington.  
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and  
Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GRIFFIN of  
Levant, HEPLER of Woolwich, MINGO of Calais, RIELLY of Westbrook, SIMMONS of  
Waldoboro, TUELL of East Machias.

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

2               **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6035-A** is enacted to read:

3       **§6035-A. Commercial Fishing Safety Fund**

4               The Commercial Fishing Safety Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is  
5       established within the department.

6               **1. Sources.** The commissioner may receive donations and funding from any source  
7       on behalf of the fund. All money received into the fund must be used for the purposes of  
8       the fund.

9               **2. Use of fund.** The commissioner shall use the fund to support activities related to  
10       improving safety in the commercial fishing industry and improving the department's ability  
11       to conduct search and rescue and recovery operations, including the acquisition of  
12       necessary equipment. The commissioner shall consult with the Commercial Fishing Safety  
13       Council established in section 6034 in making expenditures from the fund.

14               **3. Interest and balances credited to fund.** Any interest earned on the money in the  
15       fund must be credited to the fund. Unexpended balances in the fund at the end of the fiscal  
16       year do not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year and credited to the fund  
17       to be used for the purposes of this section.

18                               **SUMMARY**

19               This bill establishes the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund within the Department of  
20       Marine Resources to support activities related to improving safety in the commercial  
21       fishing industry and improving the department's ability to conduct search and rescue and  
22       recovery operations, including the acquisition of necessary equipment.