

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1318

H. P. 999

House of Representatives, March 6, 1973

Referred to Committee on Marine Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Greenlaw of Stonington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT to Increase the Minimum Size of Lobsters $\frac{1}{16}$ of an Inch for
5 Consecutive Years.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 12, § 4451, amended. The 2nd sentence of section 4451 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

The commissioner shall cause one gauge on the measure to be $\frac{3}{16}$ inches in length in 1973, $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length in 1974, $\frac{5}{16}$ inches in length in 1975, $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length in 1976, $\frac{7}{16}$ inches in length in 1977, $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length in 1978 and succeeding years, and the other 5 inches in length.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 12, § 4451, sub-§ 1, amended. The first sentence of subsection 1 of section 4451 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 5 of chapter 408 of the public laws of 1969, is further amended to read as follows:

It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, expose for sale, give away, transport, ship or have in possession any lobster, alive or dead, cooked or uncooked, which is less than $\frac{3}{16}$ inches in length in 1973, $\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length in 1974, $\frac{5}{16}$ inches in length in 1975, $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length in 1976, $\frac{7}{16}$ inches in length in 1977, $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length in 1978 and succeeding years, as determined by the state double gauge lobster measure by measuring from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear end of the body shell.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 12, § 4451, sub-§ 3, amended. Subsection 3 of section 4451 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

3. **Exception if lobster immediately liberated alive when caught.** If any lobster which is shorter than $3\frac{3}{16}$ inches in length in 1973, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length in 1974, $3\frac{5}{16}$ inches in length in 1975, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length in 1976, $3\frac{7}{16}$ inches in length in 1977, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length in 1978 and succeeding years, or longer than 5 inches in length, as determined by the method of measuring provided in subsections 1 and 2, or is mutilated in such a manner as to make accurate measurement impossible, is immediately liberated when caught, the person who so liberates the lobster is excused from the unlawful possession of that lobster.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Act is reflected in the title.