

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2248

H. P. 1776

House of Representatives, January 2, 1974

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Brown of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FOUR

AN ACT Prohibiting V-notching or Similar Practices on Lobsters.

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 12, § 4401, sub-§ 4, repealed and replaced.** Subsection 4 of section 4401 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by sections 10 and 11 of chapter 337 of the public laws of 1967 and by section 1 of chapter 180 of the public laws of 1973, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof.

4. Commissioner shall liberate egg-bearing lobsters. The commissioner shall cause the female lobsters to be liberated in the coastal waters of the State, as the commissioner may deem for the best interests of the State.

**Sec. 2. R. S., T. 12, § 4401, sub-§ 5, repealed and replaced.** Subsection 5 of section 4401 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

5. Penalty for the taking, holding or possession of egg-bearing lobsters or lobsters from which eggs have been removed. Whoever takes, holds, transports, ships or has in his possession any egg-bearing lobsters, or whoever has in his possession any female lobster from which eggs have been removed by any means other than natural hatching, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 for each such female lobster involved or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by both.

**Sec. 3. R. S., T. 12, § 4401, sub-§ 6, repealed.** Subsection 6 of section 4401 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 180 of the public laws of 1973, is repealed.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

Research has demonstrated the deleterious effects of causing any break in the shell or membrane of the lobster. Bacterial infections of various types will result. Increased attraction of predators, inhibiting effects on molting, prolonged bleeding are other mortality-causing factors associated with breaks in the shell. Therefore, V-notching or other practices associated with the lobster fishery which result in damage to the integument of the lobster should be prohibited.