

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2386

S. P. 845

In Senate, January 18, 1974

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Graffam of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

AN ACT Relating to Sale of Crawfish.

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

R. S., T. 12, § 4452, amended. The first paragraph of section 4452 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

It is lawful for any person, firm, corporation or any place of business to sell, offer for sale or possess for sale within the State crawfish, so called, in any form. It shall be lawful to serve in public eating places, but unlawful to label or advertise as lobster or imitation lobster, any species of fish in either a canned, frozen or fresh state, whether removed from the shell or not, except the species of lobster known as *Homarus americanus*.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the title. The law, as it now stands, was enacted years ago to protect Maine's lobster industry when prices were low and demand was confined to nearby markets. Today things are different, markets for Maine lobster are worldwide, not only keeping the price up but creating a short supply as well.

States may do a number of things legally but they may not interfere with interstate commerce purely to protect one business against its competitor.

This bill will protect the Maine lobstermen by helping to create a more stable market and will tend to discourage wholesalers who buy on the low market, store and then sell when the market is real scarce, thus creating unrealistic profits for the wholesaler not the fisherman.