

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-385)
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT" **A** "to H.P. 959, L.D. 1184, Bill,

"AN ACT to Increase Lobster Fishing License Fees and Establish a Lobster Advisory Council."

Amend the bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in its place the following:

'AN ACT to Establish a Lobster Advisory Council.'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1.
12 MRSA c. 619, sub-c. IV is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER IV

LOBSTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

§6461. Purpose

The lobster fishing industry is one of the most important industries in the State because of its contribution to the economy and also because of its unique social, historic and cultural contributions to this State's quality of life.

This subchapter is enacted to help conserve and promote the prosperity and welfare of the State and its citizens and the lobster fishing that helps to support them. This subchapter will accomplish these goals by fostering and promoting better methods of conserving, utilizing, processing, marketing and studying the lobster.

§6462. Lobster Advisory Council

1. Appointment; composition. There is established the Lobster Advisory Council which shall consist of 9 members. Each member shall be appointed by the commissioner. Six mem-

bers of the council shall be holders of lobster and crab fishing licenses and shall be chosen to reflect a geographic distribution along the coast. Two members shall be holders of wholesale seafood licenses and shall be primarily dealers in lobster. One member shall be a member of the general public and shall not hold any license under this subpart.

2. Term. All members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except a vacancy shall be filled by the commissioner for the unexpired portion of the term. Members shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed.

3. Compensation. Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses, including travel at a mileage rate equal to that for state employees under Title 5, section 8. Expenses of the council shall not exceed \$2,000 a year.

4. Quorum. A quorum shall be 5 members of the council, if at least 3 of them are lobster and crab fishing license holders.

5. Chairman and officers. The council shall annually choose one of its members to serve as chairman for a one-year term. The council may select other officers and designate their duties.

6. Meetings. The council shall meet at least 4 times a year at regular intervals. It may also meet at other times at the call of the chairman or the commissioner.

§6463. Council programs and activities

1. Advise. The council shall advise the commissioner on

activities of the department that relate to the lobster industry. The council may investigate problems affecting the lobster industry and make recommendations to the commissioner and the Marine Resources Advisory Council concerning its investigations.

2. Research plans. The council may review current lobster research programs and plans for research on the lobster stock, and submit to the Commissioner and Marine Resources Advisory Council, annually, its recommendations on those programs and plans.

Sec. 2. Initial appointments. The terms of those persons initially appointed to the council shall be as follows: Two members appointed as holders of lobster and crab fishing licenses shall be appointed for one year, 2 for 2 years and 2 for 3 years; one member appointed as a holder of a wholesale seafood license shall be appointed for one year and one for 3 years; and the public member shall be appointed for 2 years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be as provided in this Act.'

Fiscal Note

The additional cost of this bill will be met from current departmental operating budget.

Statement of Fact

This amendment deletes the license fee increases and the Lobster Advisory Council Fund. It also sets a \$2,000 annual maximum council expenses. It also provides that the initial appointments shall be for staggered terms.