

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1742

H. P. 1632

Office of the Clerk of the House

Governor's Bill. Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Mr. Hanson of Kennebunkport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Repeal the Marine Worm Tax.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the present packaging and labeling requirements, as well as the Marine Worm Tax, impose a needless hardship on the marine worm industry; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

12 MRSA § 6772, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 661, § 5, is repealed.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill repeals the present packaging and labeling provisions for sale of marine worms. These provisions have proven to be unrealistic and burdensome for the marine worm industry. The marine worm industry, generally consisting of small scale enterprises and geared for rapid shipment of product, is unable to

provide the elaborate storage facilities required by the law and still compete successfully. Since the Marine Worm Tax was designed as an industry tax to finance the regulation and enforcement of these packaging and labeling provisions, it is now inappropriate.

This bill will cause a loss in General Fund revenues of approximately \$4,500 from January 1 to June 1, 1980, and \$10,000 in fiscal year 1980-81. It will also cause a loss in dedicated revenue to the Marine Worm Fund of \$2,000 from January 1 to June 1, 1980, and \$4,300 in fiscal year 1980-81.