

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 904**

H. P. 768

House of Representatives, February 18, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Stover of West Bath.

Cosponsor: Representative Small of Bath.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Concerning the Taking of Marine Worms in Clam Flats.**

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

**12 MRSA § 6671, sub-§ 3, first sentence**, as amended by PL 1979, c. 608, § 1, is further amended to read:

Within any area in the intertidal zone or coastal waters in the municipality, a shellfish conservation ordinance may regulate or prohibit the taking of shellfish; may fix the amount of shellfish that may be taken; may limit the size of soft shell clams; may fix the qualifications for a license, including municipal residency; may fix license fees; **may regulate or prohibit the taking of marine worms and authorize the municipal officers to open and close flats to the taking of marine worms under specified conditions in order to protect shellfish in the intertidal zone of the municipality**; and may authorize the municipal officers to open and close flats under specified conditions.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit municipalities to regulate the taking of marine worms as part of the municipal shellfish conservation program. At times, the taking of marine worms can cause damage to shellfish, especially clams in

flats where the worms may be found. This bill allows the municipalities to protect the clams by regulating the times and conditions when marine worms may be taken.