MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 2 3 4	(New Draft of H.P. 942, L.D. 1352) (New Title) FIRST REGULAR SESSION
5 6	ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
7 8	Legislative Document No. 1620
9 10 11 12	H.P. 1124 House of Representatives, May 29, 1985 Reported by the Majority from the Committee on Marine Resources and printed under Joint Rule 2. Original bill presented by Representative Scarpino of St. George. EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
13 14 15	STATE OF MAINE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
17 18	NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
19 20 21	AN ACT to Examine the Lobster Resources of the State.
22 23	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
24 25	Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6451, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1981, c. 480, §2, is further amended to read:
26 27 28 29 30 31 32	1. Allocation of license fees. Ten dollars of each \$33 fee and \$5 of each \$13 fee for each lobster and crab fishing license shall be allocated to the Lobster Fund, which shall be used for the purpose of lobster biology research and of propagation of lobsters by liberating seed and female lobsters in Maine coastal waters.
33 34 35	Sec. 2. Study authorized. The Legislature shall authorize an independent review of all available, relevant scientific literature on lobster biology in

1 order that questions over the validity of existing 2 lobster biology research can be resolved and thus al-3 the Legislature to consider lobster management 4 and conservation issues in a reasoned and objective 5 manner. This review shall give specific attention to 6 scientific justification for conservation measures including, but not limited to, the maximum 7 8 minimum measure. The review shall also assess the 9 available literature on the economic impacts 10 changes in these conservation measures. The joint 11 standing committee of the Legislature having juris-12 diction over marine resources, in consultation with 13 the Legislative Council, may retain professional con-14 sultants with expertise in this area to assist in the The committee shall consult with the Depart-15 16 ment of Marine Resources and with the lobster 17 in the conduct of the review. The committee 18 shall report on the study and any legislative propos-19 als to the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legis-20 lature.

Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from the Lobster Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

<u>1985-86</u>

25 LEGISLATURE

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22 23

\$40,000

26 Establishes an 27 count to be expended 28 under the supervision 29 the Legislative 30 Council for an inde-31 pendent investigation 32 lobster biology, 33 migration patterns 34 other related and 35 conservation sub-36 iects.

Over the past 10 years, the Legislature has debated a variety of lobster conservation measures in an atmosphere of uncertainty and, to some extent, mistrust. While a substantial amount of scientific research exists, its methodology and results are hotly disputed by the industry.

The purpose of this amendment is to authorize a professional review of the available lobster research to determine whether or not there is sufficient scientific justification for existing and proposed lobster conservation efforts. The study will also indicate which conservation measures appear to be promising.

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