

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1265

H.P. 942 House of Representatives, April 14, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative COLES of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Senator PERKINS of Hancock,
Representatives RICE of Stonington and HOLT of Bath.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 Resolve, to Study the Human Health and
2 Environmental Hazards of Tributyltin
3 in Antifouling Products.
4

5 Study of health and environmental hazards. Re-
6 solved: That the Department of Environmental Protec-
7 tion shall conduct a study of the potential environ-
8 mental and human health hazards posed by use of vari-
9 ous materials used to inhibit the growth of marine
10 organisms on boat bottoms and lobster traps. The de-
11 partment shall give particular attention to products
12 containing tributyltin, an organic tin compound, and
13 products used in lobster and crab trap dips.

14 The department shall form an advisory group com-
15 prised of the State Toxicologist from the Department
16 of Human Services and representatives from the De-
17 partment of Marine Resources, Bureau of Marine Sci-

1 ences, Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Stan-
2 dards to provide technical assistance.

3 The study shall examine the acute and chronic
4 toxicity of antifoulant products and trap dip to ma-
5 rine organisms, including lobsters, crabs, mussels,
6 other shellfish and other marine organisms. The
7 study shall also examine the potential human health
8 hazards posed by the application and general presence
9 in the workplace of antifoulants and trap dip. The
10 study shall attempt to quantify the volume of such
11 materials used in this State and shall investigate
12 the application and disposal methods currently prac-
13 ticed.

14 The department shall examine all existing scien-
15 tific literature and the analyses conducted by the
16 United States Environmental Protection Agency. The
17 department shall conduct primary research where nec-
18 essary to assess the toxicity of antifoulant consti-
19 tuents on marine organisms of particular interest to
20 the state fishing industry. The department also
21 shall evaluate the use of tributyltin in lobster trap
22 dip. Limited sampling shall be done to assess the
23 presence and extent of tributyltin in the marine en-
24 vironment.

25 The department shall make a preliminary recommen-
26 dation, as to the regulation or suspension of the
27 sale or use of tributyltin and trap dip, to the joint
28 standing committee of the Legislature having juris-
29 diction over energy and natural resources and to the
30 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
31 jurisdiction over marine resources by February 1,
32 1988.

33 The department shall report its findings and any
34 recommendations it may have for legislative action to
35 the joint standing committee of the Legislature hav-
36 ing jurisdiction over energy and natural resources
37 and the joint standing committee of the Legislature
38 having jurisdiction over marine resources no later
39 than January 1, 1989; and be it further

40 **Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following
41 funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry
42 out the purposes of this resolve.

		<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
1			
2	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DE-</u>		
3	<u>PARTMENT OF</u>		
4	All Other	\$30,000	\$20,000

5 STATEMENT OF FACT

6 The use of organic tin compounds, primarily
7 tributyltin (TBT), has become widespread in many
8 antifouling bottom paints for boats and ships. This
9 material is also used in "trap dip," a preservative
10 for wooden lobster traps.

11 State lobstermen, the State's congressional dele-
12 gation, the state toxicologist and the United States
13 Environmental Protection Agency have expressed con-
14 cern over the human health and environmental hazards
15 that tributyltin and other chemicals used in trap dip
16 may pose.

17 This resolve calls for preliminary recommenda-
18 tions for regulation on the sale and use of
19 tributyltin and trap dip within the State. It also
20 funds a first-cut study, led by the Department of En-
21 vironmental Protection, to assess the level of use of
22 tributyltin and other materials used in trap dip,
23 current application and disposal methods and poten-
24 tial environmental or health hazards.

25 The study calls for an interdepartmental effort
26 to efficiently use state resources and to ensure cov-
27 erage of all environmental, human health and occupa-
28 tional safety issues regarding these chemicals.

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