

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

NO. 2021

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H.P. 1487 House of Representatives, January 12, 1988  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the  
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested  
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative SALSBURY of Bar Harbor.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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1 AN ACT to Postpone the Effective Date for  
2 the Use of Biodegradable Escape Panels  
3 on Lobster Traps.  
4

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

8 Whereas, the Commissioner of Marine Resources has  
9 promulgated a rule requiring biodegradable vents on

1 all lobster traps by January 1, 1988; and

2 Whereas, the technology for biodegradable vents is  
3 not perfected yet and implementing this rule would  
4 impose an economic hardship on the lobster industry;  
5 and

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

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

14 12 MRS A §6433, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

15 5. Escape panel required. The commissioner shall  
16 provide that by January 1, 1990 all traps must be  
17 equipped with an escape panel that is biodegradable.

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

21 STATEMENT OF FACT

22 The system for biodegradable escape panels on  
23 lobster traps has not been perfected as yet and is  
24 receiving additional study by the University of Maine  
25 and others using different materials. At this point,  
26 more time is necessary to assure the results needed to  
27 protect this resource.

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