

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(AFTER DEADLINE)  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

NO. 2573

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H.P. 1881 House of Representatives, March 23, 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 SCARPINO of St. George.  
Cosponsored by Representatives VOSE of Eastport and LOOK  
of Jonesboro.

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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 Freeze Further Increases in the  
2 Minimum Lobster Size.  
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4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
5 follows:

6 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6431, sub-§1, ¶¶B to D, as  
7 enacted by PL 1985, c. 677, §§2, 6 and 7, are repealed.

8 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6431, sub-§1-A is enacted to

1 read:

2 1-A. Increase in minimum size. The minimum size  
3 as set out in subsection 1 shall be increased to the  
4 same extent the minimum lobster possession size is  
5 increased by appropriate regulatory action of the  
6 United States Secretary of Commerce having the force  
7 of law in all states or by federal legislation.

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

9 The purpose of this bill is twofold. First,  
10 recognizing that the best way to address conservation  
11 of a commercial species is in the marketplace, that  
12 the lobster resource is harvested internationally,  
13 that the major marketplace is the United States and  
14 that control of the national marketplace is the only  
15 effective means of conserving the lobster resources,  
16 this bill requires that any increase in the minimum  
17 lobster size be contingent upon a like increase in the  
18 minimum lobster possession size at a national level.  
19 Second, since the United States produces only  
20 approximately 50% of the lobsters consumed in this  
21 country with the remainder being an imported product  
22 from Canada, representing approximately 70% of the  
23 Canadian harvest, without a minimum federal possession  
24 size, the conservation objectives of the size increase  
25 would be ineffective and would guarantee a loss of 20%  
26 to 30% of the current United States market to a  
27 foreign product.

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