

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 3-20-97

(Filing No. H- 77)

MINORITY
MARINE RESOURCES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "*A*" to H.P. 212, L.D. 276, Bill, "An Act to Extend the Territorial Waters to 12 Miles for the Purpose of Marine Resource Protection and the Enforcement of Marine Resource Laws"

Amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

Extending the territorial waters to 12 miles could significantly increase General Fund enforcement costs of the Department of Marine Resources. The final costs depend on the level of enforcement desired by the Legislature and can not be determined at this time.

This bill may increase prosecutions for Class C crimes. Sentences of more than 9 months imposed for Class C crimes must be served in a state correctional institution. The cost to the State per sentence is \$53,033 based upon an average length of stay of one year and 10 months. The State also must reimburse counties for sentences served in county jails of 9 months or less for Class C crimes.

This bill may also increase prosecutions for Class D and Class E crimes. If a jail sentence is imposed, the additional costs to the counties are estimated to be \$83.78 per day per prisoner. These costs are not reimbursed by the State. The number of prosecutions that may result in a jail sentence and the

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2 resulting costs to the county jail system are expected to be
insignificant.

4 The Judicial Department may require additional General Fund
6 appropriations to cover indigent defense costs related to these
new cases. The amounts can not be estimated at this time. The
8 additional workload and administrative costs associated with the
minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be
10 absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial
Department. The collection of additional fines may also increase
12 General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

14 **SUMMARY**

16 This amendment adds a fiscal note to the bill.