

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1501

H.P. 1063

House of Representatives, March 12, 1997

An Act to Amend the Lobster Laws and to Study the Feasibility of Basing Categories of Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses on the Percentage of Income Derived from Commercial Lobster Fishing.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ETNIER of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BIGL of Bucksport, LEMONT of Kittery.

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

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5, ¶A, as amended by PL 1995, c. 568, §1, is further amended to read:

A. Documents to the commissioner that the person harvested lobsters in calendar year 1993, ~~calendar year 1994 or at any time between January 1, 1995 and September 30, 1995~~ 1996 while in possession of a Class I, Class II or Class III license issued to that person under this section;

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5, ¶B, as amended by PL 1995, c. 568, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 468, §3, is amended to read:

C. Meets the requirements of the apprentice program under section 6422; or

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5, ¶¶D and E, as amended by PL 1995, c. 568, §1, are repealed.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5, ¶F, as amended by PL 1995, c. 568, §1, is further amended to read:

F. Is 65 years of age or older and has held a lobster and crab fishing license ~~or~~.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5, ¶G, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 568, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 7. Report. The Commissioner of Marine Resources shall, by January 15, 1998, report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resource matters on the feasibility of basing categories of lobster and crab fishing licenses on the percentage of income an applicant derives from commercial lobster fishing. The report may include legislation proposed by the commissioner. The report must include an evaluation of methods of determining and reporting the percentage of an applicant's income that is derived from commercial fishing. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resource matters may report out legislation during the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature regarding lobster and crab fishing licenses.

SUMMARY

The bill amends the eligibility requirements for obtaining a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license. The bill requires a person to meet one of the 3 following

eligibility requirements to obtain a license:

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1. Document to the commissioner that the person harvested
lobsters in calendar year 1996 while in possession of a Class I,
Class II or Class III license;

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2. Meet the requirements of the apprentice program; or

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3. Be 65 years of age or older and have held a lobster and
crab fishing license in the past.

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The bill also requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources
to report by January 15, 1998 to the joint standing committee of
the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resource matters
on the feasibility of basing categories of lobster and crab
fishing licenses on the percentage of income an applicant derives
from commercial lobster fishing.

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