

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MARINE RESOURCES

MAJORITY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1597, L.D. 2226, Bill, "An Act to Limit New Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 and before the summary the following:

Sec. 2. Report. The Lobster Advisory Council shall by January 1, 1999 submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters a report, including recommended legislation, regarding limited entry into lobster management zones created under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6446. The council must examine methods to limit entry in individual lobster management zones for the purpose of conserving the lobster resource; assess the potential impact of those methods; and explore limitations on the use of lobster trap tags as a method to reduce fishing effort in the lobster fishery. In the course of its study, the council must, to the extent accurate information is available, compare the number of lobster licenses sold to the number of lobster license holders who harvest lobsters. Any recommendation for a system of limited entry must include a process under which a resident denied entry into the lobster fishery may appeal that denial to the Commissioner of Marine Resources. The council may also study any aspect of limited entry into the lobster fishery that is of interest to the council and the report may include recommended legislation. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters may report out legislation during the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature regarding limited entry into the lobster fishery.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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FISCAL NOTE

1998-99

REVENUES

General Fund	(\$5,850)
Other Funds	(700)

Establishing a moratorium on commercial lobster and crab fishing licenses will reduce General Fund revenue from anticipated new licenses by \$5,850 in fiscal year 1998-99. The moratorium will also reduce dedicated revenue collected by the Department of Marine Resources for the Seed Lobster Fund by \$700 in fiscal year 1998-99.

The Lobster Advisory Council within the Department of Marine Resources will incur some minor additional costs to submit a required report to the Legislature. These costs can be absorbed within the council's existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

The amendment requires the Lobster Advisory Council to study limited entry into lobster management zones and submit a report by January 1, 1999 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters.