

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 382

H.P. 304

House of Representatives, January 30, 2001

An Act to Reauthorize and Expand the Lobster Promotion Council.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative ETNIER of Harpswell.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6455, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 211,
§3, is further amended to read:

6 **5. Fund established; license surcharge assessed.** The
Lobster Promotion Fund, referred to in this subchapter as the
8 "fund," is established to carry out the purposes of this
subchapter. The department shall pay to the fund all money
10 appropriated or received by the department for the purposes of
this subchapter, except that the department may retain funds
12 necessary to reimburse the department for the actual cost of
collecting the license surcharges established in this
14 subsection. The fund is capitalized from the following annual
surcharges assessed on the following licenses issued by the
16 department for calendar years 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997,
1998, 1999, 2000 and, 2001, 2002 and 2003:

18 A. Class I crab and lobster licenses for persons 18 to 69
20 years of age, ~~\$25~~ \$50;

22 B. Class II crab and lobster licenses, ~~\$50~~ \$75;

24 C. Class III crab and lobster licenses, ~~\$75~~ \$100;

26 D. Wholesale seafood licenses with lobster permits, ~~\$200~~
\$225; and

28 E. Lobster transportation licenses, ~~\$200~~ \$225.

30
32 A person holding more than one of the licenses listed in this
subsection is assessed a surcharge only on the highest
surchargeable license held.

34
36 The Treasurer of State shall hold all surcharges assessed by this
subsection in the fund and invest all money in the fund until
38 disbursed to the council upon request of the council. Interest
from investments accrues to the fund.

40 All money in the fund is subject to allocation by the
Legislature. Unexpended balances in the fund at the end of the
42 fiscal year may not lapse but must be carried forward to be used
for the same purposes.

44
46 In addition to payment of the regular license fee and the
surcharge, a person purchasing a license subject to the
surcharges established in this subsection may make voluntary
48 contributions to the fund at the time the license is purchased.
Voluntary contributions received by the department from a

licensee pursuant to this subsection must be deposited in the
fund by the department and must be used by the council for the
purposes of this subchapter.

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Lobster Promotion Council to hire staff
as needed and continues to capitalize the Lobster Promotion Fund
through surcharges on lobster and crab licenses extended through
the year 2003.

The bill also increases the surcharges on various licenses
used to capitalize the Lobster Promotion Fund by \$25.