

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1368

H.P. 1003

House of Representatives, March 18, 2003

An Act Concerning Age Requirements for Student, Apprentice and Noncommercial Lobster Licenses

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BULL of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator DAMON of Hancock.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§3-A, ¶E,** as amended by PL 1999, c.
490, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

6 E. A student license authorizes the license holder to
8 engage in the licensed activities under subsection 2. A
10 student license may be issued only to a person who, at the
12 time of application, is 8 years of age or older and under 23
14 years of age. A person issued a student license may not
16 submerge more than:

18 (1) Ten lobster traps in the coastal waters of the
20 State if the person is 8 years of age or older and
22 under 11 years of age;

24 (2) Fifty lobster traps in the coastal waters of the
26 State if the person is 11 years of age or older and
28 under 14 years of age; or

30 (3) One hundred and fifty lobster traps in the coastal
32 waters of the State if the person is 14 years of age or
34 older and under 23 years of age.

36 A person issued a student license is enrolled in the
38 apprentice program under section 6422. When applying for a
40 license the person must designate a sponsor. For the
42 purposes of this paragraph, "sponsor" means a person who
44 holds a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
46 fishing license issued under this section.

48 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5-A,** as amended by PL 1995, c.
500, §1, is further amended to read:

502 **5-A. Student license eligibility.** A student license may
504 only be issued to a person who, at the time of application, is a
506 full-time student ~~not more than 22~~ 8 years of age or older and
508 under 23 years of age. For the purposes of this subsection,
510 "full-time student" means "student" as defined in Title 39-A,
512 section 102, subsection 8, paragraph C.

514 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5-B,** as enacted by PL 2001, c.
516 581, §1, is amended to read:

518 **5-B. Noncommercial lobster and crab fishing license**
520 **eligibility.** Beginning with license year 2003, a noncommercial
522 lobster and crab fishing license may be issued only to a person
524 who, at the time of application, is 8 years of age or older and
526 has:

2 A. Successfully completed a lobster and crab fishing
written examination, as provided in section 6423; or

4 B. Held a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
6 fishing license and has landed lobster under that license.

8 Once a person successfully completes the examination, that person
need not repeat the examination to renew the license.

10 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6421, sub-§5-C** is enacted to read:

12 **5-C. Apprentice lobster and crab fishing license**
14 **eligibility.** An apprentice lobster and crab fishing license may
be issued only to a person who, at the time of application, is 8
16 years of age or older.

18 **Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6422, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 490,
§2, is further amended to read:

20 **1. Program established; experience component.** By July 1,
22 1996, the commissioner shall establish by rule an apprentice
program for entry into the lobster fishery. The program must
24 include practical lobster fishing experience. A person must be 8
years of age or older and hold an apprentice lobster and crab
26 fishing license or a student lobster and crab fishing license
under section 6421 to enter the program.

28
30 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill amends the laws concerning age requirements for
student, apprentice and noncommercial lobster license holders by
34 setting a minimum age of 8 years and a graduated trap limit for
student license holders depending on their age.