

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 1393

H.P. 972

House of Representatives, April 2, 2009

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### **An Act To Provide an Exception to the Pine Tree Development Zone Requirements for Seafood Processing Businesses**

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Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Speaker PINGREE of North Haven.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAMON of Hancock and  
Representatives: EATON of Sullivan, KRUGER of Thomaston, McKANE of Newcastle,  
PENDLETON of Scarborough, PERCY of Phippsburg, TILTON of Harrington, WEAVER of  
York, Senator: RECTOR of Knox.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5250-R, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

3 **6. Seafood processing business.** "Seafood processing business" means a business  
4 that processes any living marine organism caught or harvested from the sea or raised and  
5 harvested in aquaculture. For the purposes of this subsection, "aquaculture," "marine  
6 organism" and "process" have the same meaning as defined in Title 12, section 6001.

7 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5250-U** is enacted to read:

8 **§5250-U. Exceptions for seafood processing businesses**

9 **1. Establishment of seafood processing business.** The commissioner may certify a  
10 business that does not otherwise qualify as a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone  
11 business pursuant to section 5250-I, subsection 17 or that does not locate in a Pine Tree  
12 Development Zone as qualified to receive Pine Tree Development Zone benefits if that  
13 business:

14 A. Is a for-profit business that makes a written commitment to expand or establish a  
15 seafood processing business within the State;

16 B. Makes a written commitment to meet the following employment criteria:

17 (1) Employment of at least 8 employees whose compensation, including  
18 benefits, calculated on a calendar year basis is equal to or greater than \$40,000,  
19 including a retirement program subject to the federal Employment Retirement  
20 Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, and group health coverage; and

21 (2) Employment of at least 50 employees whose compensation, including  
22 benefits, calculated on a calendar year basis is equal to or greater than \$30,000;  
23 and

24 C. Makes a written commitment to invest a minimum of \$500,000 in expanding or  
25 establishing its seafood processing business within the State.

26 **2. Application for benefits.** A seafood processing business may apply to the  
27 commissioner for certification to receive Pine Tree Development Zone benefits pursuant  
28 to subsection 1. An application must include, but is not limited to, a detailed narrative  
29 description of the seafood processing business's plans to establish or expand a seafood  
30 processing business and goals for achieving the requirements listed under subsection 1  
31 and a description of resources to be committed, including a related timeline for achieving  
32 these goals. Upon review and determination by the commissioner that the business  
33 satisfies the requirements under subsection 1, the commissioner shall issue a certificate to  
34 the seafood processing business for qualification for Pine Tree Development Zone  
35 benefits.

36 **3. Sunset.** Applications for Pine Tree Development Zone benefits under this section  
37 must be received by the commissioner by June 30, 2011.

**SUMMARY**

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This bill provides a new exception category for qualification for Pine Tree Development Zone benefits for a seafood processing business that makes certain written commitments. The process for qualifying for this exception and the conditions for meeting those qualifications are similar to those that presently exist for manufacturing businesses in order for them to qualify for Pine Tree Development Zone benefits under circumstances in which they would not otherwise be qualified.