

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 2/20/20 Majority

MARINE RESOURCES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 29, L.D. 28, Bill, "An Act Regarding Access to Lobster Licenses"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources To Evaluate the Limited-entry Lobster and Crab Fishing Licensing System'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Limited-entry lobster zone management review. Resolved: That the Department of Marine Resources shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters by February 15, 2021 that evaluates the limited-entry zone policy in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6448. The report must examine the long waiting periods for new zone entrants to be permitted to obtain a lobster and crab fishing license to fish in a limited-entry zone. In examining the waiting list for participation, the department shall consider:

- 1. The current biological status of the fishery;
- 2. Current exit-to-entry ratios in each limited-entry zone;
- 3. Latency of licenses and trap tags;
- 4. The current policy for student lobster and crab fishing licenses; and
- 5. Any other factors the department finds relevant to its examination.

The department shall also revisit the findings and recommendations made in the report prepared for the department by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute pursuant to Resolve 2011, chapter 62. The report must include recommendations regarding the long waiting periods for entry into a limited-entry zone. In making any recommendations, the department shall account for potential impacts to the lobster fishery as a result of any proposed new federal regulations to address protections for endangered right whales. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 matters may report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature
2 based upon the report of the department.'

3 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
4 section number to read consecutively.

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and changes the title. It requires the
7 Department of Marine Resources to provide the joint standing committee of the
8 Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters with a report that evaluates
9 the limited-entry zone system by February 15, 2021. It requires the department to
10 examine the long waiting period for entry to fish in a limited-entry zone. This amendment
11 requires the department, in examining the waiting list, to consider several factors,
12 including, but not limited to, the current biological status of the fishery, current exit-to-
13 entry ratios in each limited-entry zone, latency of licenses and trap tags and the current
14 policy for student lobster and crab fishing licenses. It requires the department to revisit
15 the recommendations made in the report prepared for the department by the Gulf of
16 Maine Research Institute pursuant to Resolve 2011, chapter 62. It requires the department
17 to make recommendations regarding the long waiting period for entry into a limited-entry
18 zone. It also requires the department to account for possible new federal regulations to
19 address protections for endangered right whales when making any recommendations.
20 Lastly, this amendment authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
21 jurisdiction over marine resources matters to report out legislation to the First Regular
22 Session of the 130th Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 28

LR 249(02)

An Act Regarding Access to Lobster Licenses

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(H-686)*

Committee: Marine Resources

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Marine Resources as a result of conducting an evaluation of the limited-entry lobster and crab fishing licensing system and a requirement to report back on the results are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.