

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1915

S.P. 775

In Senate, May 9, 2023

**Resolve, to Establish a Grant Program to Issue Shellfish Licenses to
Qualified Disabled Veterans**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich and
Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, HICKMAN of Kennebec, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives:
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, PERRY of Calais, RIELLY of Westbrook, THORNE of Carmel,
ZAGER of Portland.

Sec. 1. Grant program established. Resolved: That the Department of Marine Resources shall create a program to award grants for shellfish restoration projects, including shellfish seeding, to municipalities that agree to reserve municipal shellfish licenses for qualified disabled veterans, referred to in this section as "the program." The department shall require that a municipality seeking to receive a grant from the program amend the appropriate ordinances to authorize the issuance of licenses under the program. The department shall determine eligibility for participation in the program by municipalities, create an application procedure for the program and alert municipalities of the existence of the program. In order to qualify for a license issued under the program, a person must be a qualified disabled veteran. For the purposes of this resolve, "qualified disabled veteran" means a person who:

1. Was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces;
2. Has a service-connected disability evaluated at 50% or more; and
3. Is a resident of the State.

In order to receive a license under the program, an applicant must provide satisfactory evidence that the applicant is a qualified disabled veteran.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF
Bureau of Marine Science 0027**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for expenditures related to seeding clams in conjunction with a grant program for shellfish restoration projects.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$10,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$10,000	\$0

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Marine Resources to create a program to award grants for shellfish restoration projects, including shellfish seeding, to municipalities that agree to reserve municipal shellfish licenses for qualified disabled veterans.