

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 681

H. P. 1103 House of Representatives, Feb. 18, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Ford of Brooklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

AN ACT to prohibit lobsters being shipped through Maine
unless in bond.

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

No person shall buy, sell, give away or expose for sale or possess for any purpose any lobsters less than three and one-half inches in length alive or dead, cooked or uncooked, measured from the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear end of the body shell; and any lobster shorter than the prescribed length when caught shall be immediately liberated alive at the risk and cost of the parties taking it, under a penalty of five dollars for each lobster caught, bought, sold, given away, exposed for sale or in possession. The possession of mutilated lobsters, cooked or uncooked shall be prima facie evidence that they are not of the required length. Measure for determining the legal length of lobsters shall be provided by the state and may be obtained from the director of sea and shore fisheries at cost. No evidence shall be received in any of the courts of the state in any matter in which the length of a lobster is in question unless such length has been determined by such a measure. All lobsters or parts of lobsters sold for use in this state or for export therefrom must be sold or delivered in the shell under a penalty of twenty dollars for each offense; and whoever

ships, transports, carries, buys, gives away, sells or exposes for sale lobster meat after the same shall have been taken from the shell, shall be liable to a penalty of ten dollars for each pound of meat so shipped, transported, carried, bought, given away, sold or exposed for sale. Any person or corporation in the business of common carrier of merchandise who shall knowingly carry or transport from place to place lobster meat after the same shall have been taken from the shell, shall be liable to a penalty of fifty dollars upon each conviction thereof. All lobster meat so illegally shipped, carried, bought, given away, sold or exposed for sale shall be liable to seizure and may be confiscated. Nothing herein contained shall be held to prohibit the sale of lobsters that have been legally canned.

All lobsters shipped from a foreign country found within the limits of the State of Maine for shipment beyond the limits of the State of Maine that do not conform to the measure used for determining the legal length of lobsters in Maine shall be seized unless shipped in bond.