

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 2, 1998 to June 19, 1999

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 18, 1999

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1999

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective June 10, 1999.

CHAPTER 68

S.P. 780 - L.D. 2190

Resolve, to Provide for the Implementation of a Maine Meat Inspection Program

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, a meat inspection program is needed to help Maine producers located in rural areas of the State compete more successfully; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Implementation study authorized. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall develop a plan to implement a Maine meat inspection program that is at least equal to federal standards for meat inspection. The department shall:

1. Survey existing custom slaughterhouses to assess interest in upgrading their facilities to meet retail standards and assist those interested in developing a plan to upgrade their facilities, including cost estimates for the upgrade;
2. Assess the potential market for custom slaughterhouses to sell Maine-inspected meat to determine the level of business likely to be created by upgrading;
3. Draft legislation to establish a Maine meat inspection program that will allow Maine-inspected meat to be sold in commerce;
4. Develop a plan to finance the implementation of a Maine meat inspection program;
5. Assess potential relationships between a state meat inspection program and the federal meat inspection program and make a recommendation as to the optimal relationship between them; and

6. Work with producers, processors and retailers to develop any other actions or recommendations to increase the volume of Maine-produced meat processed in this State and available for retail sale; and be it further

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall report its findings and recommendations, including any legislation necessary to implement those recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by January 3, 2000. The committee may submit legislation relating to a Maine meat inspection program during the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

1999-00

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation

All Other	\$70,000
Appropriates funds on a one-time basis to research the reinstatement of a Maine meat inspection program.	

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective June 11, 1999.

CHAPTER 69

H.P. 1079 - L.D. 1526

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study Limited Entry in the Shrimp Fishery

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the shrimp fishery has historically been a volatile industry in terms of landings; and

Whereas, it is in the interest of the State to study limited entry in the shrimp fishery; and

Whereas, a study must be initiated promptly in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force to Study Limited Entry in the Shrimp Fishery, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of the following 8 members, appointed by the Commissioner of Marine Resources:

1. Seven members representing the shrimp industry, who must reflect a geographical distribution along the coast and represent users of different gear types; and
2. One member employed by the Department of Marine Resources who has expertise in the shrimp fishery; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments; meetings. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The first meeting of the task force must convene no later than June 1, 1999. The task force may hold up to 6 meetings and the task force shall notify the members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources of each meeting; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall study whether access to the Gulf of Maine shrimp fishery should be limited for the purpose of conserving the shrimp resource. The task force shall report its findings and conclusions and any proposed legislation by November 15, 1999 to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. The Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources may report out legislation during the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature regarding limited entry and licensing in the shrimp fishery; and be it further

Sec. 5. Staff. Resolved: That the Department of Marine Resources shall provide the task force with staff and clerical assistance; and be it further

Sec. 6. Compensation. Resolved: That members of the task force serve without compensation; and be it further

Sec. 7. Funding. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Marine Resources may accept and administer any outside funds contributed to support the work of the task force; and be it further

Sec. 8. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

1999-00

**MARINE RESOURCES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Division of Administrative
Services**

All Other \$3,000

Provides funds for the costs associated with staffing the Task Force to Study Limited Entry in the Shrimp Fishery.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective June 11, 1999.

CHAPTER 70

S.P. 501 - L.D. 1502

**Resolve, to Study the Changes in
Lobster Morbidity and Mortality**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, there has been an apparent increase in lobster morbidity and mortality, particularly in pounded lobster; and

Whereas, the source of the increased morbidity and mortality has not been determined; and

Whereas, the lobster fishery has the highest landed value of Maine fisheries; and

Whereas, the fishery provides a large employment base, including some of the areas of highest unemployment in the State; and

Whereas, the tourist industry is heavily dependent on a reliable supply of high-quality lobster; and