

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

July 2013

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**STAFF:**

AMY WINSTON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
13 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670

# STATE OF MAINE

126<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER* ..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*.....House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE* ..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT* ..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY* ..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*.....chapter # of enacted public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature is October 9, 2013. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

*Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources*

**LD 1397 An Act To Create Equity and Fairness in the Elver Industry**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY		

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to improve the fairness of the elver licensing process by making the process more comparable to the licensing processes for other similar industries within the Department of Marine Resources.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

**LD 1448 An Act To Preserve Marine Resources Licenses for Active Duty Service Members**

**PUBLIC 319  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY DEVIN	OTP-AM	S-267

This bill makes a valid license issued by the Department of Marine Resources inactive with no fee due for a holder who is a member of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces and the United States Coast Guard, who is under orders for active duty. The license may be reactivated within 30 days of the holder's release from active duty and remains valid until the end of the licensing period in which the holder is released from active duty.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-267)**

This amendment strikes the bill and replaces it with amendments to existing statutes that provide exceptions for certain requirements for licenses issued by the Department of Marine Resources to persons serving or who have recently served in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard or the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces.

1. The amendment changes the exception that allows individuals who are ineligible for a commercial fishing license in a limited entry fishery due to service in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard to be awarded a license, in the following ways:

- A. It expands the exception to all limited entry fisheries;
- B. It increases the eligibility period from 6 to 10 consecutive years of service, with no license fee being assessed during that time;
- C. For consecutive years of service beyond 10 years, it provides that the exception is available as long as a license fee is paid; and
- D. Instead of requiring an honorable discharge from service, it disqualifies an individual who has received a dishonorable discharge.

2. The amendment also changes the current waiver provision regarding license eligibility requirements for

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individuals who are called to active duty in the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces and who hold a license or have held a license in the preceding calendar year, in the following ways:

- A. It expands the exception to all limited entry fisheries;
- B. It adds an eligibility period of 10 consecutive years of service, with no license fee being assessed during that time;
- C. For consecutive years of service beyond 10 years, it provides that the exception is available as long as a license fee is paid; and
- D. It includes instances when the individual enters the service pursuant to a draft or enlistment during a period of an active draft.

The amendment extends an individual's eligibility for a student lobster and crab fishing license by allowing the individual, upon the individual's return from active duty in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard or the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, to have the individual's eligibility regarding age extended by the number of years that individual was not able to purchase a student license due to this military service for a period of up to 10 years. In order to take advantage of this extended eligibility, the individual must initiate the license application within one year of the individual's return from active duty.

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2013, chapter 319 amends existing statutes that provide exceptions for certain requirements for licenses issued by the Department of Marine Resources to persons serving or who have recently served in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard or the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces.

1. It changes the exception that allows individuals who are ineligible for a commercial fishing license in a limited entry fishery due to service in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard to be awarded a license, in the following ways:
  - A. It expands the exception to all limited entry fisheries;
  - B. It increases the eligibility period from 6 to 10 consecutive years of service, with no license fee being assessed during that time;
  - C. For consecutive years of service beyond 10 years, it provides that the exception is available as long as a license fee is paid; and
  - D. Instead of requiring an honorable discharge from service, it disqualifies an individual who has received a dishonorable discharge.
2. This law also changes the current waiver provision regarding license eligibility requirements for individuals who are called to active duty in the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces and who hold a license or have held a license in the preceding calendar year, in the following ways:
  - A. It expands the exception to all limited entry fisheries;
  - B. It adds an eligibility period of 10 consecutive years of service, with no license fee being assessed during that time;

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C. For consecutive years of service beyond 10 years, it provides that the exception is available as long as a license fee is paid; and

D. It includes instances when the individual enters the service pursuant to a draft or enlistment during a period of an active draft.

This law also extends an individual's eligibility for a student lobster and crab fishing license by allowing the individual, upon the individual's return from active duty in the United States Armed Forces or United States Coast Guard or the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, to have the individual's eligibility regarding age extended by the number of years that individual was not able to purchase a student license due to this military service for a period of up to 10 years. In order to take advantage of this extended eligibility, the individual must initiate the license application within one year of the individual's return from active duty.

Public Law 2013, chapter 319 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 21, 2013.

**LD 1452      An Act To Allow Municipalities with Shellfish Conservation Ordinances      CARRIED OVER  
To Request Permission To Prohibit Marine Worm Harvesting**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY PRIEST		

This bill allows a municipality with a shellfish conservation ordinance to apply to the Department of Marine Resources to request a prohibition on marine worm harvesting. It also makes it a civil violation to harvest marine worms from areas closed to the harvest and possession of marine worms.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

**LD 1544      An Act To Expand the Authority of Lobster Management Policy      PUBLIC 239  
Councils To Address Entry into Lobster Management Zones and To      EMERGENCY  
Create a Temporary Medical Allowance**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KUMIEGA	OTP-AM	H-334

This bill expands the authority of lobster management policy councils to allow them to make a recommendation to the Commissioner of Marine Resources regarding the methodology used to calculate the number of new entrants into a lobster management zone. Under existing law, the calculation is based on the number of trap tags retired; this bill would allow a council to recommend using the number of licenses retired instead. The bill also creates a temporary medical allowance so that when a parent or spouse holding a lobster and crab fishing license is unable to fish due to a medical condition, a child or spouse of the license holder who has completed the apprentice program may operate under the license for a limited duration of up to one year.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-334)**

This amendment provides that in order to be eligible for the temporary medical allowance provided in the bill, the holder of a lobster and crab fishing license must have harvested a minimum of 1,000 pounds of lobsters within one year prior to the request for a temporary medical allowance. This amendment also gives the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources the authority to report out a bill regarding lobster licenses and methods for