



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 28

H.P. 29

House of Representatives, January 9, 2019

An Act Regarding Access to Lobster Licenses

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox and
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, BLUME of York,
FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HEPLER of Woolwich, McDONALD of Stonington,
RECKITT of South Portland, TUELL of East Machias.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6448, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 239, §3, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **4. Limited-entry zone as declared lobster zone.** A person may not be issued a
5 Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license that identifies a limited-entry
6 zone as the declared lobster zone unless that person:

7 A. Held in the previous licensing year a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
8 fishing license that identified that zone as the person's declared lobster zone; ~~or~~

9 B. Is authorized as a new zone entrant by the commissioner pursuant to subsection
10 7-A to declare that zone as the person's declared lobster zone; or

11 C. Is authorized as a new zone entrant by the commissioner pursuant to subsection
12 7-B to declare that zone as the person's declared lobster zone.

13 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6448, sub-§7-B** is enacted to read:

14 **7-B. New zone entrants on the waiting list for 10 or more years.** Notwithstanding
15 subsection 7-A, each licensing year, the commissioner shall authorize new zone entrants
16 for each limited-entry zone that have been on the waiting list pursuant to subsection 6 for
17 10 or more years and have met the eligibility requirements under section 6421, subsection
18 5. The commissioner shall notify the authorized new zone entrants by certified mail. A
19 new zone entrant authorized under this subsection shall comply with the trap tag limits
20 established in section 6431-F, subsection 2, paragraph A.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to authorize new zone
23 entrants for a limited-entry lobster zone who have been on a waiting list for 10 or more
24 years and have met certain eligibility requirements. A person authorized as a new zone
25 entrant under this bill must adhere to specific trap tag limits.