



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 371

H.P. 297

House of Representatives, February 8, 2011

An Act To Control Costs to the Lobster Industry

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative TILTON of Harrington.
Cosponsored by Senator SULLIVAN of York and
Representatives: BURNS of Whiting, PARRY of Arundel, Senators: LANGLEY of Hancock,
President RAYE of Washington, TRAHAN of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6431-B**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 201, §13, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§6431-B. Tag system**

5 The commissioner shall establish by rule a lobster trap tag system under which
6 lobster and crab fishing license holders and nonresident lobster and crab landing permit
7 holders must purchase tags for the purpose of identifying and tracking traps. The rules
8 must contain provisions for replacing lost tags. The commissioner may impose a per-tag
9 fee to cover the cost of trap tags, the costs of administering and enforcing a lobster trap
10 tag system, ~~the costs of management of the lobster fishery~~ and the costs associated with
11 lobster management policy councils and referenda pursuant to section 6447. Trap tag
12 fees must be deposited in the Lobster Management Fund established under section
13 6431-C, and a separate accounting of trap tag fees must be presented to and approved by
14 the Lobster Advisory Council.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill limits how the Commissioner of Marine Resources may spend trap tag fees.
17 The bill requires the commissioner to provide a separate accounting of trap tag fees to the
18 Lobster Advisory Council.