



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 28

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H.P. 29

House of Representatives, January 9, 2019

### An Act Regarding Access to Lobster Licenses

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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.