



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 898

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H.P. 621

House of Representatives, March 7, 2013

### **An Act To Require Labeling of Genetically Engineered Marine Organisms**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CHAPMAN of Brooksville.

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

2               **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA c. 605, sub-c. 3-B** is enacted to read:

3                               **SUBCHAPTER 3-B**

4                               **GENETICALLY ENGINEERED PRODUCTS**

5       **§6116. Mandatory labeling of genetically engineered marine organisms**

6               **1. Label required.** Beginning January 1, 2014, a marine organism that has been, in  
7 whole or in part, genetically engineered as defined in Title 7, section 1051, subsection 2  
8 may not be offered for sale for human consumption unless labeled as provided in  
9 subsection 2.

10              **2. Manner of labeling.** Labeling under this section must be accomplished as  
11 follows.

12              A. For marine organisms offered at wholesale, the package in which the organisms  
13 are packed and sales documents provided by the seller to the purchaser must contain  
14 statements that the organisms have been genetically engineered.

15              B. For marine organisms offered for retail sale in a raw form, the package in which  
16 the organisms are packed must contain a statement that the organisms have been  
17 genetically engineered or, if the organisms are not packaged, the label or other  
18 indicator identifying the organisms must state that the organisms have been  
19 genetically engineered.

20              C. For marine organisms that are offered for sale at retail in a processed form, the  
21 package containing the organisms must contain a statement on the front and back of  
22 the package that the organisms have been genetically engineered.

23              D. For marine organisms that are offered for sale for immediate consumption at a  
24 restaurant, take-out facility or similar location, the menu or other listing of items for  
25 sale must indicate that the organisms have been genetically engineered.

26              A statement or other indication that a marine organism has been genetically engineered  
27 must be clearly and conspicuously presented.

28              **3. Violation; penalty.** Failure to comply with this section is a civil violation for  
29 which a fine of not more than \$1,500 may be adjudged.

30                               **SUMMARY**

31              This bill requires clear and conspicuous labeling of marine organisms offered for sale  
32 that are produced using genetic engineering. Failure to provide the required labeling is a  
33 civil violation subject to enforcement by the Commissioner of Marine Resources.