



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1916

H.P. 1422

House of Representatives, January 12, 2022

An Act To Create a Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 10, 2022. Referred to the Committee on Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, COLLINGS of Portland, HUTCHINS of Penobscot,
LANDRY of Farmington, PARRY of Arundel, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Senator:
BENNETT of Oxford.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

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

5 This bill proposes to establish the Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry
6 and a commission to administer the fund. The commission would have 7 members,
7 including 4 legislators who serve on the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
8 jurisdiction over marine resources matters, the Senate chair and House chair and the
9 ranking member of the committee from the Senate who is a member of the party with the
10 2nd highest number of seats in the Senate and the ranking member of the committee from
11 the House who is a member of the party with the 2nd highest number of seats in the House.
12 Also serving on the commission would be 3 licensed members of the lobster industry, one
13 each appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House. The
14 commission would be charged with reviewing current and proposed laws, rules and
15 regulations, both federal and state, concerning the lobster industry, determining the best
16 course of action, including a response involving the legal system, and using the money in
17 the Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry to carry out that course of action
18 as appropriate. The Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry would be funded
19 by depositing 20¢ from the sale of each trap tag into the fund and by depositing 20% of the
20 license surcharge for the State's lobster marketing collaborative into the fund. The laws
21 governing the commission and the fund would be repealed in 2032.