



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1552

S.P. 615

In Senate, April 6, 2023

An Act to Create the Lobster Innovation Fund

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich and
Senators: LAWRENCE of York, RENY of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA c. 619, sub-c. 4-A, headnote** is amended to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 4-A**

4 **LOBSTER RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND AND**
5 **LOBSTER INNOVATION FUND**

6 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6465, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 623, §1, is amended to
7 read:

8 The Lobster Research, Education and Development Fund, referred to in this ~~subchapter~~
9 section as "the "fund," is established in the department. Balances in the fund may not lapse
10 and must be carried forward and used for the purposes of this section.

11 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6466** is enacted to read:

12 **§6466. Lobster Innovation Fund**

13 The Lobster Innovation Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in
14 the department. Balances in the fund may not lapse and must be carried forward. The fund
15 must be used to provide stipends to holders of Class I, Class II or Class III lobster fishing
16 licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster fishing technologies.

17 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
18 allocations are made.

19 **MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF**

20 **Lobster Innovation Fund N439**

21 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to establish a nonlapsing fund to provide stipends to
22 holders of Class I, Class II or Class III lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing
23 of new lobster fishing technologies.

24 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
25 All Other	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
26		
27 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill establishes the Lobster Innovation Fund to provide stipends to holders of Class
30 I, Class II or Class III lobster fishing licenses to participate in the testing of new lobster
31 fishing technologies and appropriates one-time funds of \$1 million in each year of the
32 biennium to the fund.