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Date: (Filing No. H-)

MARINE RESOURCES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 628, L.D. 968, “Resolve, to Study Stakeholder Input Involving the Appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources”

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Study the Level of Stakeholder Input Involved in the Appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved: That the Working Group to Study the Level of Stakeholder Input Involved in the Appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," is established.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That the working group is formed and administered by the Department of Marine Resources and consists of at least 10 members appointed by the department, including at least one member representing each of the following fisheries:

1. Inshore and offshore lobsters;
2. Clams, including quahogs;
3. Elvers;
4. Menhaden;
5. Sea urchins;
6. Scallops and oysters;
7. Shrimp;
8. Halibut; and
9. River herring.

1 The working group must also include at least one member representing a fisheries
2 union. The department may also solicit input from individuals with backgrounds in gill net
3 fishing, dragging and aquaculture.

4 **Sec. 3. Chair of working group. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Marine
5 Resources or the commissioner's designee shall chair the working group and convene the
6 first meeting within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve.

7 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall study the level of stakeholder
8 input involved in the appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources and how that
9 input may be expanded. The working group shall also consider existing avenues for
10 industry members to participate and communicate with the Department of Marine
11 Resources and may suggest new means of participation and communication.

12 **Sec. 5. Report. Resolved:** That, by December 3, 2026, the working group shall
13 submit a report with findings and recommendations related to the duties described in
14 section 4 to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. The committee is
15 authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.'

16 Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
17 section number to read consecutively.

18 SUMMARY

19 This amendment replaces the resolve and establishes the Working Group to Study the
20 Level of Stakeholder Input Involved in the Appointment of the Commissioner of Marine
21 Resources. The amendment establishes the membership and duties of the working group
22 and directs the working group to submit a report by December 3, 2026 to the Joint Standing
23 Committee on Marine Resources and authorizes the committee to submit legislation related
24 to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

25 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

26 (See attached)