



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2024

H.P. 1354

House of Representatives, December 5, 2025

An Act to Make Changes to Certain Licensing Laws Governing For-hire Charter Boat Operators, Lobster and Crab Fishing and Elver Dealers

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 3, 2025. 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 black ink, reading "Rlt B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6313, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 155, §5 and affected by §6, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6313, sub-§4, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. Is the captain of a vessel licensed to carry passengers for hire for saltwater recreational fishing; or

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6431-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 201, §12, is further amended to read:

1. Limit. Before March 1, 2000, the holder of a Class I, Class II or Class III license issued under section 6421 may not submerge more than 1,000 traps. After February 29, 2000, the The holder of a Class I, Class II or Class III license or a nonresident lobster and crab landing permit issued under section 6421 may not submerge more than 800 traps. If a lower trap limit is adopted by rule for a zone pursuant to section 6446, a license holder who fishes in that zone may not submerge a number of traps that exceeds the lower limit.

The number of traps fished from a vessel may not exceed the applicable trap limit established in this subsection, regardless of the number of license holders fishing from that vessel.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6431-A, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §22 and affected by Pt. C, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6864, sub-§1-B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 370, §3, is repealed.

SUMMARY

This bill makes changes to certain licensing laws related to marine resources. It clarifies eligibility requirements for a for-hire charter boat operator's license. It amends a provision of law governing lobster and crab trap limits by removing language that describes trap limits prior to March 1, 2000 and repealing a provision that establishes a specific civil penalty for violating trap limits. It removes a prohibition on issuing an elver dealer's license or supplemental license to a person using the same business address as a person who has violated certain laws governing elver dealers for at least 5 years following the violation.