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Date: (Filing No. H-)

MARINE RESOURCES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
125TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1218, L.D. 1609, Bill, “An Act To Ensure the Safety of Bait Used in Maine's Fishery”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, local sources of bait are scarce and lobstermen are being driven to expand their search for bait; and

Whereas, the importation of marine and freshwater fish to be used as bait from various parts of the world may pose a risk to Maine's marine environment; and

Whereas, the fishing industry and marine scientists are concerned that Maine's lobster resource and other fisheries could be endangered by the introduction of this bait if it is contaminated by pathogens; and

Whereas, action must be taken immediately to prevent the use of bait that presents an unacceptable risk to Maine's marine environment and Maine's fisheries; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

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This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)