

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 668**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*James M. Cantwell*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act promoting economic development by strengthening the local seafood industry.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                    | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                | DATE ADDED:      |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>James M. Cantwell</i> | <i>4th Plymouth</i>              |                  |
| <i>Anne M. Gobi</i>      | <i>5th Worcester</i>             | <i>1/17/2013</i> |
| <i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>     | <i>First Essex and Middlesex</i> | <i>1/25/2013</i> |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 668**

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By Mr. Cantwell of Marshfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 668) of James M. Cantwell, Anne M. Gobi and Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to further regulate the taking and processing of lobsters. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
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An Act promoting economic development by strengthening the local seafood industry.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 44 of chapter 130 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 paragraph:-

4           If the measurement of any such lobster taken from one or the other eye sockets is of the  
5 required length, such lobster shall be deemed to be a legal lobster. The bringing ashore of any  
6 mutilated lobster in a manner that affects its measurement as aforesaid shall be prima facie  
7 evidence in all prosecutions that the lobster was or is less than the required length; provided, the  
8 director, with the approval of the marine fisheries advisory commission, shall promulgate rules  
9 and regulations to allow the on-shore processing of live lobsters of legal length into a food  
10 product of frozen lobster parts and the possession and sale of such processed food product by  
11 wholesale dealers; provided further, the processing of lobsters into parts at sea shall be  
12 prohibited and shall be subject to the penalties provided in the first paragraph; provided further,  
13 that said processing shall be conducted only by wholesale dealers that are licensed by the  
14 department of public health under section 77G of chapter 94; provided further, the packaging of  
15 processed frozen lobster parts as a food product shall bear a label in accordance with applicable  
16 federal and state laws and regulations; provided further, frozen lobster parts that have been  
17 processed as a food product may be possessed, sold or offered for sale by any wholesale dealer,  
18 and any retail dealer including without limitation, restaurants and retail food establishments; and  
19 such food product may be possessed by a consumer. This section shall not apply to common  
20 carriers possessing lobster or lobster food products, for the purpose of transportation.