

HOUSE No. 2906

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 further regulating the processing of lobsters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>
<i>Geoff Diehl</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>

HOUSE No. 2906

By Mr. Cantwell of Marshfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2906) of James M. Cantwell and others for legislation to further regulate the processing of lobsters. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act further regulating the processing of lobsters.

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 111. Section 44 of chapter 130 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third paragraph and inserting in place
3 thereof the following paragraph:-

4 If the measurement of a lobster taken from 1 or the other eye sockets is of the required
5 length, the lobster shall be a legal lobster. In a prosecution under this section, mutilation of a
6 lobster that affects its measurement pursuant to this section shall be prima facie evidence that the
7 lobster was or is shorter than the required length; provided, however, that the director shall, by
8 regulation approved by the marine fisheries advisory commission, allow the on-shore processing
9 of live lobsters of legal length into frozen, shell-on lobster parts or tails and the importation of
10 unfrozen shell-on lobster parts or tails for the purpose of further processing by wholesale dealers
11 that are licensed by the department of public health under section 77G of chapter 94. Processed
12 frozen shell-on lobster parts or tails may be possessed, sold or offered for sale by a wholesale

13 dealer, retail dealer or food establishment and may be possessed by a consumer as a food
14 product. The processing, possession or sale of frozen or unfrozen lobster tails under this section
15 shall be limited to lobster tails that weigh not less than 3 ounces. The packaging of processed
16 frozen or unfrozen shell-on lobster parts or tails under this section as a food product shall be
17 labeled in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. This section shall not apply to a
18 common carrier in possession of lobsters for the purpose of transporting lobsters.