

**SENATE . . . . . No. 509**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Patrick M. O'Connor***

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*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.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Patrick M. O'Connor*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Plymouth and Norfolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 509**

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By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 509) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to further regulate the processing of lobsters. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2906 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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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 1. 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.