

# Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries

## Bill Summary

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H.110
<b>Title:</b>	An Act relative to lobstering closure mitigation
<b>Sponsors:</b>	Representative Armini of Marblehead
<b>Cosponsors:</b>	Representative LaNatra of Kingston
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 1:00 PM - 05:00 PM, A-1
<b>Reporting Date:</b>	Sunday, September 7, 2025
<b>Similar Matters:</b>	S.68 (Senator O'Connor - Identical)

### Prior History

2023-2024: Filed as S.552; Referred to the Joint Committee on Agriculture; Accompanied a new draft S.2534; Reported favorably to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

### Current Law

Chapter 130 of the Massachusetts General Laws relates to marine fish, fisheries, fishing, and the division of marine fisheries.

### Summary

This bill would create the Lobstering Closure and Mitigation special fund administered by the Department of Unemployment Assistance. This fund would make payments to lobstermen who are prevented from work due to closures of their fishing areas which protect marine species, such as the Right whale. This fund is meant to be a temporary stopgap while lobstermen work towards incorporation, which would allow them to apply for unemployment payments from the state. Payments from the special fund would only be awarded to lobstermen who are incorporated or working toward incorporation. Payments for lobstermen would be eligible for weekly payments equal to one dollar per lobster trap per week. Payments would stop after one calendar year to those who did not make progress towards incorporation in that time frame. The fund would be dissolved three fiscal years after its creation.