MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 589

S.P. 175

In Senate, February 23, 1993

An Act to Continue Certain Provisions of the Seed Certification Laws That Encourage the Development of New Varieties.

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senator: PARADIS of Aroostook, Representative: WHITCOMB of Waldo.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2103-A, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 336, is amended to read:

6. Repeal. Subsection 4--is--repealed-January--1,--1994, subsection 7 is repealed July 1, 1988, and subsection 8 is repealed July 1, 1990.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill removes the scheduled repeal date of January 1, 1994 for the laws dealing with nonreleased potato varieties.

This law was originally enacted in 1987 and provides that potatoes may not be certified as seed if they are of a variety that is either protected by patent or otherwise not released to the public. This serves to protect the interests of a patent holder or a breeder and encourages the expenditure of research and development money in an effort to develop new varieties with special characteristics that increase their value and utility to the potato industry as a whole.

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