

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1869

S.P. 653

In Senate, March 12, 2012

An Act To Establish the Dairy Improvement Fund

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PLOWMAN of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Speaker NUTTING of Oakland and

Senators: MASON of Androscoggin, SHERMAN of Aroostook, Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, EDGECOMB of Caribou, FOSTER of Augusta, GIFFORD of Lincoln, TIMBERLAKE of Turner.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the Maine dairy industry may suffer irreparable injury if state support is
4 not available immediately; and

5 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
6 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
7 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
8 therefore,

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

10 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2910-B** is enacted to read:

11 **§2910-B. Dairy Improvement Fund**

12 There is created the Dairy Improvement Fund, referred to in this section as "the
13 fund." The fund must be deposited with and maintained by the commissioner to be used
14 solely for investment in and improvement and marketing of the dairy industry in the
15 State. The fund must be administered by the commissioner in accordance with this Title.
16 All money received by the fund from any source, including revenue distributed under
17 Title 8, section 1036, subsection 2-A, paragraph K, must be credited to the fund. Money
18 credited to the fund may be used to provide loans to assist dairy farmers in implementing
19 programs and activities that improve the economic viability of the dairy industry and to
20 pay the administrative costs of processing loan applications and servicing and
21 administering the fund and loans and grants made from the fund. Repayment of these
22 loans and interest on the loans must be credited to the fund to be available for the same
23 purposes.

24 The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted
25 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
26 subchapter 2-A.

27 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2-A, ¶K,** as enacted by IB 2009, c. 2, §45, is
28 amended to read:

29 K. One percent of the net slot machine income must be forwarded by the board to the
30 Treasurer of State, who shall credit the money to the Department of Agriculture,
31 Food and Rural Resources to fund ~~dairy farm stabilization pursuant to Title 7, section~~
32 ~~3153-B~~ the Dairy Improvement Fund under Title 7, section 2910-B.

33 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
34 legislation takes effect when approved.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill creates the Dairy Improvement Fund within the Department of Agriculture,
37 Food and Rural Resources to fund programs and activities to improve the economic

1 viability of the dairy industry. The bill provides that revenue from slot machines
2 operated by a casino operator that is distributed to the department for dairy stabilization
3 under current law would instead be transferred to the improvement fund.