

# **MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE**

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N I N E T I E T H                    L E G I S L A T U R E

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Legislative Document

No. 534

H. P. 1251.                      House of Representatives, February 6, 1941.  
Referred to Committee on Agriculture and 1,000 copies ordered printed.  
Sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Libby of Caribou.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-ONE

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**AN ACT to Determine Quality of Farm Products.**

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

**R. S., c. 39, § 2, amended.** Section 2 of chapter 39 of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 104 of the public laws of 1935, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 2. Duties.** The commissioner of agriculture is the chief executive charged with the enforcement of chapters 39 to 43 inclusive, and shall be vigilant in discovering violations thereof and making complaint to the proper authorities. He shall by personal observation, investigation and correspondence, acquaint himself with the methods and wants of practical husbandry, the means of fertilization, and the adaptation of various products to the soils and climate of the state; also, with the progress of scientific and practical agriculture elsewhere, with a view to the more complete development of the natural resources of the state. He shall gather statistics of information concerning agriculture and publish the same annually; he shall assist the farmers of the state, in so far as is practicable, to secure farm help and to promote increased production of farm crops through the selection, the growing and the dissemination of superior strains of seeds. He shall make and preserve a full record of all rules and reg-

ulations promulgated under the provisions of this chapter, and all payments and expenses incurred hereunder, and all other transactions performed by him in the discharge of his duties, as herein provided. He may investigate and furnish statements to shippers and other interested parties as to the quality and condition of fruits, vegetables, dairy and other perishable farm products when received within the state for intrastate or interstate commerce, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, including payment of such fees as will be reasonable and as nearly as may be to cover the cost for the service rendered. **All such fees and all such money thus collected for such services rendered by the commissioner of agriculture shall be paid by him to the treasurer of state; and the aforesaid funds and money are hereby appropriated for the purposes of this chapter.** Any unexpended balance from such funds thus appropriated shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward to the same fund for the next fiscal year. Statements so issued by the authorized agents of the department shall be received in all courts of the state of Maine as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained. He may enter into agreements or cooperative arrangements with any person, firm or corporation for the purpose of advertising and increasing the sale and consumption of Maine farm products or disseminating information concerning the same; and he may receive, administer and disburse any funds or contributions from such persons, firms or corporations, either independently or in conjunction with state funds allocated to said purpose; provided that funds so contributed shall be used for the purposes herein set forth only. He may employ such agents and assistants and make such purchases as may be necessary in the proper performance of his duties.'