

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 403

SEED POTATO BOARD

Sec.

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§ 2151. Creation and membership

A Seed Potato Board, as heretofore established in the Department of Agriculture, shall consist of 7 members.

The commissioner shall be a member of the board and its chairman. The remaining 6 members shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. Of the 6 members appointed, other than the commissioner, 5 shall be chosen from representatives of the potato industry in Aroostook County and one from elsewhere in the State of Maine.

R.S.1954, c. 32, § 146.

§ 2152. Terms; vacancies; salaries

Each appointed member shall serve for a term of 3 years and until his successor has been appointed and qualified.

Upon the expiration of the term of office of any member of the board, said member's successor shall be appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Council in like manner as said member.

In case of a vacancy for any reason in the office of any member, the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term of such vacant office in the same manner as the regular appointment to that office was made.

Any of the appointive members may be removed from office by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council for cause shown, after reasonable notice and a hearing.

The members of the Seed Potato Board shall receive no salary, but all their expenses incurred in attending meetings shall be paid out of the State Treasury, on certificate of the commissioner, upon the audit and warrant of the State Controller.

R.S.1954, c. 32, § 147.

§ 2153. Meetings; quorums

The Seed Potato Board shall meet annually on such date and at such place as the board may appoint and shall meet at such other times as the board may deem necessary or when called by the chairman of the board or any 2 members thereof upon 2 days' notice. The board may by resolution provide for a shorter notice made by telegraph, telephone or otherwise.

The presence at any meeting of at least 4 members of the board shall be necessary to constitute a quorum, and the concurring votes of not less than a majority of the members present at any meeting shall be necessary to the decision of any question or issue or the authorization of any action.

R.S.1954, c. 32, § 148.

§ 2154. Powers; rules and regulations

The Seed Potato Board shall have the power and authority to produce, or cause to be produced through contract or otherwise, such acreages of foundation seed potatoes of various varieties as it may from time to time determine for distribution and sale to the potato growers of this State. Said commitments of said board shall not exceed in the aggregate the amount of funds which may be made available to it. In addition the board shall have authority to work with and through the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Maine, in conducting and carrying on a program of production of foundation seed potatoes annually. Said board shall have authority to purchase, own or otherwise acquire farm real estate and farm equipment if necessary for the purpose of producing acreages of foundation seed potatoes.

The board shall have full power and authority to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law pertaining to its program of production, distribution and sales of foundation seed potatoes to the potato growers of Maine, as it may from time to time determine, and to exercise any other power which may be conferred upon the board by law.

The board is authorized to pay to the Town of Masardis in lieu of taxes a sum, in the discretion of the board, which will compensate said town in whole or in part for loss of real estate taxes due to state ownership of real estate now used for seed potato purposes.

R.S.1954, c. 32, § 149.

§ 2155. Records and proceedings

The Seed Potato Board shall elect a secretary, who need not be a member of said board, and said board shall have authority to employ such agents as may be necessary to consummate any and all programs which it may institute, as authorized under the terms of this chapter and shall keep a record of all of its proceedings, and all expenses by it incurred shall be paid out of the State Treasury, on certification of the commissioner, upon the audit and warrant of the State Controller and charged against any and all appropriations which may be annually made available for its use as stipulated.

R.S.1954, c. 32, § 150.

§ 2156. Appropriation

There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$100,000 to be made available to the Seed Potato Board, said sum so appropriated to be a revolving fund for the use of said board in carrying out the terms and purposes as stipulated.

If at the end of any fiscal year the board cannot show total assets of \$100,000, either in cash, real estate, chattels or potato contracts as determined by the State Auditor, a sum sufficient to make up the \$100,000 shall be taken from the tax collected under Title 36, chapter 709, commonly known as the potato tax. This sum shall not be larger than \$10,000 in any one fiscal year. In case the assets of the said board at the end of any fiscal year exceed \$100,000, then any sums which have been taken from the potato tax may be returned in an amount not to exceed the excess over \$100,000.

The 10-year period shall expire June 30, 1966, at which time there shall be returned to the General Fund \$100,000.

R.S.1954, c. 32, § 151; 1955, c. 68.