

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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September 16, 1946

To A. M. G. Soule, Chief, Division of Inspection
Department of Agriculture

Subject: Sardine Packing

While I was in the northern part of the State last week, your letter of September 11th came to my office, relating to the law providing for the inspection and licensing of sardine factories, stating that a request for an interpretation of the Maine statute had been made by one of the licensees in the sardine industry.

You state that in Chapter 86, Section 24, there are certain prohibitions and time limits set as to the packing of sardines. The first sentence of the section has been suspended to January 1, 1947, after which date the sentence again becomes effective.

There is no Section 24 in Chapter 86. I believe you have reference to Chapter 66 of the Public Laws of 1945 which provides:

"Beginning January 1, 1945, the licenses for the calendar years of 1945 and 1946 shall run from January 1 to December 31 of the respective years, unless sooner revoked as herein provided."

Apparently you mean Section 198 of Chapter 27, R. S. 1944, as amended by Chapter 66, Section 2, P. L. 1945, which amendment I have just quoted. Because of the hardship it may impose upon the sardine industry, I regret to state that Section 198 of Chapter 27 will be in full force and effect on January 1, 1947. Therefore I must rule that it will be unlawful to pack Riga sprats, Sardine Spread, Pickled Herring, and Kipperred Snacks in glass or tin containers between December 31, 1946 and April 15, 1947, as Section 24 of Chapter 34, R. S. 1944, makes it unlawful until the 15th day of the following April to pack or can sardines of any description, as the amendment in Chapter 66, Section 2, ends January 1, 1947.

Ralph W. Farris
Attorney General

RWF:c