

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 174

S. P. 80

In Senate, January 14, 1971

Referred to Committee on Agriculture. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Chick of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Controlled Atmosphere Storage Room for Apples.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 7, § 539, amended. Section 539 of Title 7 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 6 of the public laws of 1965, is further amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read as follows:

If within a period of 100 consecutive days the oxygen content of a sealed storage room shall be at 5% or less for a total of 90 days, the room shall qualify as a legal controlled atmosphere room.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 7, § 540-A, additional. Title 7 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 540-A to read as follows:

§ 540-A. Sealing; notification

The commissioner shall be notified of the date of sealing of a controlled atmosphere room within 5 days of the sealing operation.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 7, § 540-B, additional. Title 7 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 540-B to read as follows:

§ 540-B. Department of Agriculture seal

All controlled atmosphere storage rooms shall be sealed by a Department of Agriculture seal, affixed by an authorized representative of the department. All storages to qualify for controlled atmosphere must have been sealed by a department representative on or before November 15th of the storage year.

No seal shall be broken, nor any such room be entered during the 90-day required period, except as provided in section 539. Whenever such interrup-

tions occur, the Division of Markets of the Department of Agriculture must be notified within 48 hours after the opening of such rooms. Such entered room shall thereafter be resealed by an authorized representative of the Department of Agriculture.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to more efficiently control cold storage rooms for apples in the interest of better health for people who purchase apples.