

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1274

H. P. 922

House of Representatives, March 2, 1971

Referred to Committee on Taxation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hardy of Hope.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Levying a Tax for Research and Promotion of Maine Wild
Blueberries.**

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

R. S., T. 36, §§ 4314 - 4316, additional. Title 36 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 3 new sections, 4314, 4315 and 4316, to read as follows:

§ 4314. Rate of tax

There is levied and imposed upon all processors and shippers a tax of one mill per pound of fresh fruit on all blueberries grown, purchased, sold, handled or processed in this State. This tax shall be computed on a fresh fruit basis, regardless of how the blueberries are processed and shall be in addition to other taxes levied under section 4303.

§ 4315. Appropriation of moneys received

Moneys received through section 4314 by the Treasurer of State shall be appropriated and used for the following purposes:

1. Collection and enforcement. Collection of the tax provided for by section 4314 and the enforcement of this chapter as it pertains to processors and shippers, and actual expenses of the advisory board;

2. Balance of funds. The remainder for the purpose of research, extension and promotion of Maine wild blueberries under the auspices of the advisory board established in section 4316 and these funds shall be expended in such a manner and amount as determined by a majority of this advisory board. Any unexpended balance from the apportionment shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward to the same fund for the same purpose for the next fiscal year.

§ 4316. Advisory board

A Blueberry Industry Advisory Board consisting of 5 members shall be established and shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture from a list of nominees submitted by the Blueberry Council. Two members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years. Any vacancy on this board shall be filled for unexpired terms by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Members appointed to this board by the Commissioner of Agriculture shall have an interest and a general knowledge of the blueberry industry as a whole and shall be a processor or shipper. One member shall be chosen from among the membership by a majority vote to serve as chairman of the advisory board and each member shall be compensated for his actual expenses. For the purpose of conducting business and carrying out the general purposes, the chairman may call meetings or any 3 members may call a meeting in the absence of the chairman.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this Act is to impose an additional tax of one mill per pound upon the processor and shipper only for the express purpose of research and merchandising of Maine wild blueberries under the auspices of an advisory board.