

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 393

S. P. 159

In Senate, January 30, 1973

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Wyman of Washington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Maine Sardine Inspection Service.

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

R. S., T. 32, § 4156, repealed and replaced. Section 4156 of Title 32 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 4156. Fees; disposition

The sum of \$85,000 annually is hereby appropriated to finance sardine processing facilities inspection service by the Department of Agriculture. Each sardine canner shall pay monthly to the Commissioner of Agriculture, not later than the 10th day of each month, 8¢ per case on the amount of sardines packed during the previous month, towards the cost of maintaining the inspection provided for in section 4155 and as part of the fee for obtaining and retaining his license. All license fees and all moneys received under this chapter, plus any funds in the sardine inspection account at the time this Act becomes effective, shall be paid by the Commissioner of Agriculture to the Treasurer of State and to the credit of this appropriation account. In the event payments by the canners exceed the amount appropriated in any year the amount of surplus will be credited against the appropriation in the following year and in no event shall any surplus be used except for carrying out this chapter.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This inspection service, which is essential to quality control and marketing of Maine sardines, was established by the Legislature, at the request of the

canners, as an emergency measure in September 1929, and provided for an assessment of 1¢ a case to finance the activity. Since that date the service has been continuous and wholly financed by the canners. The cost of salaries, travel and other charges have steadily increased so that the present assessment on the canners is 8¢ a case. However, despite this steady and drastic increase in the assessment the 8¢ a case has not been adequate to finance fully this important program during several recent years because of unusually small packs of sardines caused by shortages of fish.