

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 452

H. P. 334

House of Representatives, January 30, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hunter of Benton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT Providing Funds for Purchase of Electronic Milk Testing
Equipment.**

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

Purchase of electronic milk testing equipment; appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$25,000 to the Division of Inspections, Department of Agriculture, toward the purchase of electronic milk testing equipment. Any unexpended balance shall not lapse but shall remain a continuous carrying account. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74
AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF	
Division of Inspections	
Capital Expenditures	\$25,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

Within the past 5 years, modern electronic milk testing instruments have been taking the place of the old, time consuming, hazardous and disagreeable Babcock centrifuge-sulfuric acid milk testing methods.

Due to the high initial investment and the widely separated geographical locations of Maine's dairy units, the advantages of electronic milk testing cannot be provided on a practical and competitive basis to the State without initial legislative support to the Department of Agriculture for the implementation of these testing methods.

An electronic milk testing unit supervised and owned by the department and operated by Dairy Testing, Inc., an impartial, non-profit New England dairy organization, would be available to all of the people of Maine and still have the advantages of accuracy and uniformity inherent thru participation in a central laboratory sample program.

A large part of Maine's milk production (40%) is sold to Federal Milk Market Order areas, where accuracy and precision in fat testing and accounting is receiving more and more attention. Increasingly, the results of electronic milk testers are being used for testing and test verification. The accuracy of test results are of equal importance to our local Maine producers and dealers.

The uniformity of butterfat test results between dealers, and between dealers and Dairy Herd Improvement Associations will improve when all tests are conducted in a central laboratory system.

State ownership of electronic milk testing equipment will enable our industry to have a testing procedure which is uniform with the rest of New England and New York, without additional state personnel; increased accuracy and confidence in testing; provide the industry and department with another tool to improve quality and increase sales; and eliminate inefficiencies and duplications associated with present methods.