

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(After Deadline)
(EMERGENCY)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2097

H. P. 2033

House of Representatives, January 24, 1978

The Committee on Agriculture suggested. Approved for introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 25.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Mahany of Easton.

Cosponsor: Mr. Strout of Corinth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-EIGHT

AN ACT to Continue the Potato Tax at the Rate of \$.025 per Hundredweight.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, by Public Law 1975, chapter 554, the tax on potatoes will be reduced July 1, 1978, from \$.025 per hundredweight to \$.012 per hundredweight; and

Whereas, it is now apparent to the Legislature that a tax of \$.012 per hundredweight will not generate sufficient revenue to enable the State to properly promote and encourage the sale of potatoes, one of Maine's most important agricultural products; and

Whereas, it is vital to the continued success and growth of Maine's potato industry that the potato tax continue at the rate of \$.025 per hundredweight; and

Whereas, it is the purpose of this Act to continue the tax rate at \$.025 per hundredweight; and

Whereas, this Act must become effective before July 1, 1978, the date when the tax rate would otherwise decrease; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

36 MRSA § 4565, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 554, § 5, is amended to read:

§ 4565. Rate of tax

A tax is levied and imposed at the rate of \$.025 per hundredweight on all potatoes raised in this State ~~prior to July 1, 1978, and at the rate of \$.012 per hundredweight on all potatoes raised in this State after July 1, 1978,~~ except that no tax shall be imposed on any potatoes which are retained by the grower to be used by him for seed purposes or for home consumption.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is explained in the emergency preamble.