

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 426

6
7 S.P. 133

In Senate, February 1, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, sent down for concurrence and
9 ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Carpenter of Aroostook.

Cosponsors: Representative Smith of Island Falls, Representative Locke
of Sebec and Senator Wood of York.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Improve the Functioning
18 of the Maine Milk Commission.
19

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

22 7 MRSA §2954, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by
23 PL 1975, c. 517, §3, is amended to read:

24 2. Considerations in establishing prices. In
25 establishing and changing minimum wholesale and
26 retail prices, the prices so established shall be
27 just and reasonable taking into due consideration the
28 public health and welfare and the insuring of an ade-
29 quate supply of pure and wholesome milk to the
30 inhabitants of this State under varying conditions in
31 various marketing areas; ~~prevailing prices in neigh-~~
32 bering states the preservation of the dairy industry
33 throughout the communities of the State and the
34 public benefit thereby derived; seasonal production

1 and other conditions affecting the costs of produc-
2 tion, transportation and marketing in the milk indus-
3 try, including a reasonable return to producer,
4 dealer and store; taking into consideration the
5 public need for the establishment of retail milk
6 prices at the lowest practicable levels. The prices
7 so established shall not exceed the northeast average
8 price for homogenized milk, as determined by the
9 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

10 A. The minimum wholesale prices paid to pro-
11 ducers shall be based on the prevailing Class I
12 and Class II prices in southern New England ~~and,~~
13 ~~after investigation by the Maine Milk Commission,~~
14 ~~shall reflect as accurately as possible the~~
15 ~~increased costs of production.~~

16 B. The minimum wholesale prices paid to dealers
17 shall be established to reflect the average of
18 the lowest prices at which milk purchased from
19 Maine producers at Maine minimum prices can be is
20 being received, processed, packaged and distrib-
21 uted within the State of Maine at a just and
22 reasonable return by the 4 lowest cost proces-
23 sors.

24 C. The minimum retail prices established for
25 payment by consumers shall be based on the mini-
26 mum wholesale price paid to dealers and a rate of
27 return deemed just and reasonable by the Maine
28 Milk Commission.

29 STATEMENT OF FACT

30 The purpose of this bill is to achieve the lowest
31 possible prices for consumers of Maine milk consist-
32 ent with protection of the Maine dairy industry from
33 unfair out-of-state competition. These changes will
34 allow the Maine Milk Commission to function effi-
35 ciently to protect consumers and producers without
36 the constant litigation, turmoil and uncertainty of
37 the past few years.

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