MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST	REGULAR SESSION
ONE HUNDRED A	ND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Legislative Document	No. 96
S.P. 322	In Senate, March 3, 198
Referred to the Committee and ordered printed.	e on Agriculture. Sent down for concurrence
	JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senat
Presented by Senator Brown of Cosponsors: Senator Woo and Representative Michael of	d of York, Representative Crouse of Washburn
SI	ATE OF MAINE
	YEAR OF OUR LORD
Life Factor to be	ablish a Numerical Whole Placed Voluntarily on Food he Retail Level in Maine.
Be it enacted by the follows:	People of the State of Maine as
Sec. 1. 22 MRSA read:	§2152, sub-§7-B is enacted to
7-B. Numerical	whole life factor. "Numerical
whole life factor" m	eans a single number assigned to
energy consumption	reflects the labor intensity, and resource use and depletion
involved in harvestin	g, processing, packaging, trans-
porting and distribut	ing a food item to retail food
buyers. The whole li	fe factor, expressed as a 1-100%
	elative costs to the ecosystem
in producing various	iood products.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2154-A is enacted to read:

§2154-A. Numerical whole life factor

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- 1. Regulations. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall promulgate regulations which systematically develop and assign a whole life factor for any food product sold in the State.
- 2. Advisory Council. The commissioner shall establish an Advisory Council to assist the department in the development of a whole life factor index and in drafting procedures for voluntary adoption of the labeling concept by food retailers.
- The Advisory Council shall be composed of at least 7 representatives from the following subject areas:
 Farming, nutrition, health, environment, economics, home economics and retail or wholesale food vendors.

16 STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to develop a whole life numerical index which can be voluntarily placed food items by retailers. The whole life factor is deas a numerical value which measures the relative costs to the ecosystem in producing and preparing various food products for sale to the consumer. It costs more in terms of depleting the earth's store of natural resources to buy food grown several hunthousand miles away simply because of the dred or fuel consumed for transportation. The same food proin the State would place less of a cost on our ecosystem by eliminating the need to use up so This simplified illustration demonstrates petroleum. to a limited extent the purpose of a whole only a few criteria. The whole life factor using factor is a comprehensive index taking the following variables into account: Energy consumption, graphic locality, labor intensity, resource use consumption, transportation, toxicity, packaging, unnecessary exploitation and likely environmental consequences of use.

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