

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 71

7 S.P. 52

In Senate, January 16, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Ordered printed and send
9 down for concurrence.

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

Presented by Senator Erwin of Oxford.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Lisnik of Presque Isle, Senator Carpenter
of Aroostook and Representative Sherburne of Dexter.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT Relating to Agricultural
18 Apprenticeship and Training.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 11 is enacted to read:

23 CHAPTER 11

24 AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING

25 §321. Establishment of Maine Agricultural Appren-
26 ticeship and Training

27 The commissioner shall establish a Maine Agricul-
28 tural Apprenticeship and Training Program.

29 §322. Responsibilities of the commissioner

30 The commissioner shall:

1 1. Information. Conduct studies and otherwise
2 gather, maintain and disseminate information concern-
3 ing farmland transfers, availability of farm labor,
4 existence of farm apprenticeship and training pro-
5 grams, persons desiring to participate in that train-
6 ing, farmers retiring or otherwise ceasing farming
7 operations, persons desiring to enter farming or as-
8 sociated employment and all other information deemed
9 necessary to carry out this chapter;

10 2. Training. Provide and supervise opportuni-
11 ties for on-farm and off-farm training, through
12 state-sponsored programs or in cooperation with other
13 appropriate agencies and organizations. Training may
14 include on-site experience under the guidance of ap-
15 proved farmer-supervisors or classroom instruction in
16 farm management, finance, equipment use and mainte-
17 nance, production and marketing principles and tech-
18 niques and other relevant subjects;

19 3. Assistance. Provide assistance in matching
20 retiring farmers with persons desiring to enter farm-
21 ing and recruit and place apprentices with
22 farmer-supervisors; and

23 4. Cooperation. Cooperate with appropriate lo-
24 cal, state and federal agencies and institutions and
25 with farm organizations and interested individuals,
26 including the Department of Educational and Cultural
27 Services, the Department of Labor, the University of
28 Maine and the Cooperative Extension Service, in car-
29 rying out this chapter.

30 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are
31 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
32 purposes of this Act.

33 1985-86

34 AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES,
35 DEPARTMENT OF

36	Positions	(1)
37	Personal Services	\$18,000
38	All Other	1,500
39	Capital Expenditures	<u>500</u>

1 Total \$20,000

2 STATEMENT OF FACT

3 Many farms owned by Maine farmers nearing retire-
 4 ment must be transferred to a new generation of
 5 trained and experienced farmers in order to preserve
 6 farming and farmland in the State. Whereas, at one
 7 time, a high proportion of agricultural students in
 8 our post-secondary schools had previous "hands-on"
 9 farm experience, today a very low percentage of these
 10 students possess such practical training prior to en-
 11 rollment. The lack of formal farm training consti-
 12 tutes a barrier both both for young people wishing to
 13 enter farming and older farmers desiring to transfer
 14 their farms to another generation.

15 This bill provides that the commissioner shall
 16 establish a Maine Agricultural Apprenticeship and
 17 Training Program to address these needs.

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