

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 599

H.P. 446 House of Representatives, March 3, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative WHITCOMB of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Representative BICKFORD of Jay, Senators
LUDWIG of Aroostook and ERWIN of Oxford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT Relating to Agricultural Internship
2 and Training.
3

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

6 7 MRSA c. 13 is enacted to read:

7 CHAPTER 13

8 AGRICULTURAL INTERNSHIP AND TRAINING

9 §341. Establishment of Maine Agricultural Internship
10 and Training Program

11 The commissioner shall establish a Maine Agricul-
12 tural Internship and Training Program.

1 §342. Responsibilities of the commissioner

2 The commissioner shall:

3 1. Information. Conduct studies and otherwise
4 gather, maintain and disseminate information concern-
5 ing farmland transfers, availability of farm labor,
6 existence of farm internship and training programs,
7 persons desiring to participate in that training,
8 farmers retiring or otherwise ceasing farming opera-
9 tions, persons desiring to enter farming or associ-
10 ated employment and all other information deemed nec-
11 essary to carry out this chapter;

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

21 3. Assistance. Provide assistance in matching
22 retiring farmers with persons desiring to enter farm-
23 ing and recruit and place interns with farmer - su-
24 pervisors; and

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

32 STATEMENT OF FACT

33 Many farms owned by Maine farmers nearing retire-
34 ment must be transferred to a new generation of
35 trained and experienced farmers in order to preserve
36 farming and farmland in the State. Whereas, at one
37 time, a high proportion of agricultural students in
38 our post-secondary schools had previous "hands-on"
39 farm experience, today a very low percentage of these

1 students possess such practical training prior to en-
2 rollment. The lack of formal farm training consti-
3 tutes a barrier both for young people wishing to en-
4 ter farming and older farmers desiring to transfer
5 their farms to another generation.

6 This bill provides that the commissioner shall
7 establish a Maine Agricultural Apprenticeship and
8 Training Program to address these needs.

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