

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 918

S.P. 316

In Senate, March 25, 1987

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate
Presented by Senator KANY of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Berwick, Senator DILLENBACK of Cumberland, Representative JALBERT of Lisbon.

STATE OF MAINE

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

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Resolve, to Support Dioxin Research by the
Bureau of Health.

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Study required. Resolved: That in order to provide an objective, ongoing source of information to the State's sludge and ash landspreading programs, the Environmental Health Unit of the Bureau of Health in the Department of Human Services shall conduct a study of dioxin contamination and possible biological pathways in the environment. The study shall be conducted in conjunction with the existing University of Maine project at Highmoor Farm. Specific topics to be examined shall include, without limitation, how much dioxin is taken up by plants, how long dioxin persists in Maine soils and how dioxin may bioaccumulate in soil organisms. The Environmental Health Unit shall assess the significance of its findings in light of environmental and public health

1 concerns over the landspreading of dioxin contami-
2 nated sludge. The unit shall report annually on its
3 progress and shall report its findings, together with
4 any recommendations to the Legislature, on or before
5 January 1, 1990; and be it further

6 Appropriation. Resolved: That the following
7 funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry
8 out the purposes of this Act.

9		<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
10	<u>HUMAN SERVICES, DEPART-</u>		
11	<u>MENT OF</u>		
12	Bureau of Health, En-		
13	vironmental Health		
14	Unit		
15	All Other	\$40,000	\$40,000

16 These funds are to
17 be used to carry
18 out a dioxin con-
19 tamination study
20 with field re-
21 search at Highmoor
22 Farm in conjunc-
23 tion with existing
24 University of
25 Maine research.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This resolve establishes an independent dioxin
3 research program in the Bureau of Health, building on
4 existing research underway by the University of
5 Maine. Dioxin is one of the most toxic chemicals ever
6 tested. Trace quantities of this substance have
7 been found in the waste water treatment plant sludge
8 from municipal treatment plants and from pulp mills.
9 This sludge is currently spread on Maine agricultural
10 land under the supervision of the Department of Envi-
11 ronmental Protection. This is an economical practice
12 and has benefits for the agricultural land. It is,
13 therefore, in the public interest to obtain more in-
14 formation concerning the environmental and public
15 health aspects of past and future sludge
16 landspreading in order that this beneficial practice
17 can be sustained while avoiding undesirable environ-
18 mental or public health impacts.

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