

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

(NEW DRAFT OF H.P. 1595, L.D. 2181)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2586

H.P. 1893 House of Representatives, March 25, 1988
Reported by Representative TARDY from the Committee on
Agriculture and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Original bill sponsored by Representative MAHANY of
Easton. Cosponsored by Representatives TARDY of Palmyra,
PARADIS of Frenchville and PINES of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Encourage and Monitor the Use of New
2 Potato Varieties.
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2157 is enacted to read:

7 §2157. Potato Variety Development Program

1 1. Promotion. The Maine Potato Board shall be
2 responsible for developing, each year, a program to
3 promote new potato varieties.

4 2. Breeding. The Maine Agricultural Experiment
5 Station shall be responsible for breeding and testing
6 of new potato varieties.

7 3. Testing. The Maine Agricultural Experiment
8 Station shall hire an agronomist to work with the
9 Maine Potato Breeding Program in Presque Isle to test
10 new potato varieties. The agronomist shall be
11 responsible for:

12 A. Developing the best cultural practices for new
13 varieties;

14 B. Promoting new varieties of Maine seed potatoes
15 to farmers in Maine and other areas;

16 C. Establishing field trials of new varieties; and

17 D. Monitoring the sales and performance of the
18 new varieties.

19 4. Multiplication. The Seed Potato Board shall
20 be responsible for multiplying seedstocks of advanced
21 selections from breeding programs. The board shall
22 establish an isolated facility at the Porter Farm to
23 produce a sufficient volume of pathogen-free
24 seedstocks of advanced selections from breeding
25 programs, in order to:

26 A. Provide extensive and rigorous pathogen
27 testing on the seedstocks introduced, cultured and
28 multiplied in the facility;

29 B. Establish systematic production of
30 pathogen-free seedstocks by meristem culture after
31 heat therapy to free the stocks of any infectious
32 viruses; and

33 C. Provide limited increase of the pathogen-free
34 seedstocks in the field to produce quality seed
35 potatoes for further evaluation by breeders and

1 growers.

2 5. Challenge grants. The commissioner shall
3 establish a challenge grant program to help in
4 establishing field trials for new potato varieties.
5 Grant proposals shall be approved by the commissioner
6 after review and recommendation by the Potato Plant
7 Breeder at the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station
8 in Presque Isle, the Director of the Division of Plant
9 Industry, the chairman of the seed grower's executive
10 council of the Maine Potato Board and the Director of
11 the Seed Potato Board. Grants may be given to farmers
12 outside of this State. Grants may consist of seed,
13 and assistance in determining cultural practices, and
14 a percentage of the farmer's production costs to be
15 determined by the commissioner. Those receiving
16 grants shall cooperate with the agronomist of the
17 Maine Agricultural Experiment Station in developing
18 the best cultural practices and sharing production and
19 marketing information.

20 6. Reporting. The agronomist of the Maine
21 Agricultural Experiment Station shall monitor the
22 sales and performance of new potato varieties and
23 shall report annually to the commissioner and the
24 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
25 jurisdiction over agriculture. The report shall
26 summarize the field trial program and address total
27 sales of new seedstock, adoption of new varieties by
28 the State's farmers, yields, quality and other
29 indicators of performance.

30 7. Potato Variety Development Fund. There is
31 established a nonlapsing Potato Variety Development
32 Fund. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural
33 Resources may accept money for this fund from the
34 Federal Government or any public or private source and
35 make expenditures from this fund in order to carry out
36 activities relative to the program. Any General Fund
37 money appropriated for potato variety development
38 shall be deposited into the Potato Variety Development
39 Fund.

40 8. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules,

1 according to the requirements of the Maine
2 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375,
3 for the interpretation and implementation of this
4 section.

5 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds
6 are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out
7 the purposes of this Act.

8 1988-89

9 AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL
10 RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

11 Bureau of Agricultural Production

12 All Other \$63,000

13 This funding
14 represents the first
15 installment of a
16 proposed 5-year plan.
17 The Federal
18 Government, through
19 the United States
20 Department of
21 Agriculture-Agriculture
22 Research Service, will
23 provide companion
24 funding. This bill
25 provides \$35,000 to
26 fund an agronomist
27 position at the Maine
28 Agricultural
29 Experiment Station in
30 Presque Isle to
31 encourage and monitor
32 the use of new potato
33 varieties in
34 cooperation with other
35 cooperating agencies;
36 \$18,000 to the Porter
37 Farm to defray startup
38 and operating costs;
39 \$10,000 to fund the
40 challenge grant

1 program which is
2 created in this Act.

3 STATEMENT OF FACT

4 This new draft establishes a Potato Variety
5 Development Program. This new draft provides for an
6 agronomist position at the Maine Agricultural
7 Experiment Station. The agronomist will develop
8 recommendations for the best cultural practices,
9 organize field trials in Maine and in other market
10 areas for Maine seed potatoes, promote new varieties
11 of Maine seed potatoes in this State and in other
12 states, assist in a challenge grant program and
13 monitor the sales and performance of new varieties.
14 To encourage growers to participate in field trials,
15 the commissioner shall develop a challenge grant
16 program, under which seed, information on cultural
17 practices and a percentage of production costs may be
18 provided to farmers. Funding for the challenge grant
19 program as well as partial funding for the Porter Farm
20 is provided. The Federal Government is very
21 supportive of these efforts and has provided companion
22 funds.

23

5108031888