

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 878

(Filing No. H- 254)

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 644, L.D. 878, Bill, "An Act to Strengthen the Penalties against Those Who Intentionally Mislabeled Foods as Natural or Organic"

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause the following:

'Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §559, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 240, §1, is repealed.'

Further amend the bill in section 2, in subsection 2, in the 6th line (page 1, line 19 in L.D.) by inserting after the underlined word "following" the following: 'or \$1,000, whichever is less'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 2 and before the statement of fact the following:

'Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1989-90

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES,
DEPARTMENT OF

Public Services - Agriculture

All Other \$2,000

Provides funds for anticipated costs of rule-making hearings.'

Further amend the bill by renumbering the sections to read consecutively.

1 Further amend the bill by inserting before the statement of
fact the following:

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FISCAL NOTE

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment retains the purpose of the original bill giving the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources authority to promulgate rules governing the labeling of foods as "organic." Existing statutory provisions making violations of organic labeling laws a Class E crime are repealed. Bill language making violations of organic labeling laws a civil violation is amended to limit the maximum penalty to \$1,000. An appropriation of \$2,000 for costs of rulemaking and a fiscal note are also added.

Reported by the Committee on Agriculture
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House
5/22/89

(Filing No. H-254)