

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 878

H.P. 644

House of Representatives, March 22, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative NUTTING of Leeds.

Cosponsored by Senator PERKINS of Hancock, Representative CARROLL of Gray and Senator ANDREWS of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

**An Act to Strengthen the Penalties against Those Who Intentionally
Mislabel Foods as Natural or Organic.**



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

3 Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §562, as amended by PL 1979, c. 731, §19, is
5 repealed.

7 Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §562-A is enacted to read:

9 §562-A. Enforcement obligations

11 1. Rules. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural
13 Resources shall adopt rules as the department deems are
15 appropriate for the proper administration of this subchapter.

17 2. Violation notices. The department shall issue notices
19 to growers, manufacturers or sellers who violate any provision of
21 this subchapter. Whenever the department finds that a grower,
23 manufacturer or seller has committed a violation, the department
25 shall impose on and collect from the violator a civil penalty not
27 to exceed the total of the following:

29 A. The department's costs of investigating and taking
31 appropriate administrative and enforcement actions in
33 respect to the violation; and

B. Five hundred dollars.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to give the Department of
Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources the authority to promulgate
rules governing the labelling of foods as "organic" and to
strengthen the department's enforcement powers.