

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1575, L.D. 2182, Bill, "An Act to Regulate the Handling of Manure"

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2, as amended by PL 1979, c. 731, §5, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The commissioner shall review proposed laws and rules that affect agricultural activity for their impact on soil tillage and animal grazing practices and their impact on the storage and use of animal manures and chemical fertilizers. The commissioner shall analyze the qualitative and quantitative impacts of proposed laws and rules that affect agricultural activity and present the analysis in public testimony on the proposed laws and rules.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§2701-B." in the first paragraph in the last 2 lines (page 1, lines 13 and 14 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "best management agricultural practices for handling manure" and inserting in its place the following: 'generally accepted manure handling practices'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§2701-B." in subsection 1 in the last line (page 1, line 17 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "best management agricultural practices" and inserting in its place the following: 'generally accepted manure handling practices'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§2701-B." in the 2nd paragraph in the first 2 lines (page 1,

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lines 27 and 28 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "best management agricultural practices" and inserting in its place the following: 'generally accepted manure handling practices'

Further amend the bill by inserting before section 2 the following:

'Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §342. sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Agricultural impacts. The commissioner shall notify and regularly inform the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources on proposed legislation or rules that may affect agricultural activity.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 2.

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

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

**FISCAL NOTE**

This bill would result in additional costs to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources due to the proposed process for responding to complaints about the handling of manure, including the adoption of rules and the analysis of proposed laws that may affect agricultural activity. Nevertheless, all costs associated with this bill would be absorbed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources utilizing existing resources.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to inform the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources on rules affecting agricultural activity. Any potential costs of this requirement would be absorbed by the Department of Environmental Protection utilizing existing resources.'

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

The amendment substitutes the term "generally accepted manure handling practices" for "best management agricultural practices" and deletes the sunset provision. The amendment also requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural

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2 Resources to review and assess the impacts of proposed laws and  
rules on agricultural activities and present this assessment at  
public hearings on the proposals. The Commissioner of  
4 Environmental Protection is directed to regularly inform the  
Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources on proposed  
6 legislation or rules that may affect agricultural activity.

Reported by the Committee on Agriculture  
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