

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1013

H.P. 708

House of Representatives, March 11, 1991

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 7, 1991. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and 1400 ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative TARDY of Palmyra.

Cosponsored by Senator VOSE of Washington, Senator CONLEY of Cumberland and Representative FARREN of Cherryfield.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

**An Act to Amend the Qualification of Blueberry Producers Associations
in the Maine Agriculture Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1973.**

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

2
3 13 MRSA §1957, sub-§3, ¶D, as amended by PL 1987, c. 155, §7,
4 is further amended to read:

6 D. The association, ~~except for an association of blueberry~~
7 ~~producers,~~ represents 51% of the producers or produced at
8 least 1/2 of the volume of a particular agricultural product
9 for a specific handler involved with those producers and
10 that agricultural product during the previous 12 months, not
11 including any volume produced by the handler, its
12 subsidiaries, agents or employees or procured by the handler
13 from sources other than producers; for the purposes of this
14 article, members of farmer cooperatives shall be are counted
15 as individual farmer members; ~~in the case of an association~~
16 ~~of blueberry producers, the association represents 51% of~~
17 ~~the producers and produced at least 1/2 of the volume of a~~
18 ~~particular agricultural product for a specific handler~~
19 ~~involved with those producers and that agricultural product~~
20 ~~during the previous 12 months;~~ if the board has reasonable
21 cause to question such representation, the board shall
22 require a secret ballot election to certify the percentage
23 of representation; and
24

26 STATEMENT OF FACT

28 Currently for an agricultural producer organization to
29 qualify under the Maine Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act
30 of 1973 it must represent 51% of the volume or produce at least
31 1/2 of the volume of a particular agricultural product for a
32 specific handler involved with those products. However, for an
33 association of blueberry growers to qualify, it must represent
34 51% of the producers and produce at least 1/2 of the volume.
35 This bill will make qualification requirements for blueberry
36 growers the same as those for other agricultural producers.