

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

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Legislative Document

No. 1739

S.P. 663

In Senate, April 30, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TITCOMB of Cumberland  
Cosponsored by Representative SIMPSON of Casco, Representative JACQUES of  
Waterville and Representative TARDY of Palmyra.

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STATE OF MAINE

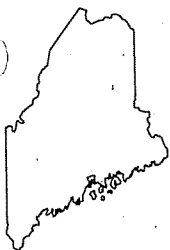
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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

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**An Act to Establish a Grading System for Maple Syrup Produced in the  
State.**

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

2  
3 Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §892, as amended by PL 1977, c. 694, §87, is  
4 repealed.

5 Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §892-A is enacted to read:

6  
7 §892-A. Official grade standards for maple syrup

8  
9 1. Definitions As used in this section, unless the context  
10 otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following  
11 meanings.

12  
13 A. "Brix" means the scale used to measure the specific  
14 gravity of maple syrup.

15  
16 B. "Damage" means any defect that affects the color,  
17 appearance, flavor, aroma, edibility or shipping quality of  
18 maple syrup.

19  
20 C. "Light transmission" means the ability of maple syrup to  
21 transmit light as determined optically by means of a  
22 spectrophotometer.

23  
24 D. "Maple syrup" means the liquid derived by concentration  
25 and heat treatment of the sap of the maple tree.

26  
27 E. The symbol "%Tc" means the percentage of light  
28 transmission through maple syrup, measurable by a  
29 spectrophotometer using matched square optical cells having  
30 a 10-millimeter light path at a wavelength of 560  
31 nanometers, the color values being expressed in percent of  
32 light transmission as compared to A.R. Glycerol fixed at  
33 100% transmission.

34  
35 2. Maple syrup grades. The following grades are  
36 established as the official maple syrup grade standards for the  
37 State.

38  
39 A. "Fancy Grade" means pure maple syrup that is free of any  
40 material other than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in  
41 sanitary condition; has a color no darker than the federal  
42 Department of Agriculture's visual color standard light  
43 amber or has a color for light transmittance not less than  
44 75.0%Tc; has a delicately sweet, original maple flavor; and  
45 has a density of at least the equivalent of 66.9° Brix at  
46 60° Fahrenheit Modulus 145. Fancy Grade maple syrup must be  
47 free of sugar crystals and may not be damaged in any way.

48  
49 B. "Grade A Medium Amber" means pure maple syrup that is  
50 free of any material other than pure, clear liquid maple  
51 syrup in sanitary condition; has a color no darker than the  
52

2 federal Department of Agriculture's visual color standard  
4 medium amber or has a color for light transmittance between  
6 the range of 74.9%Tc to 60.5%Tc; and may have a flavor that  
8 is more pronounced than that of Fancy Grade, but that is not  
10 strong or unpleasant. Grade A Medium Amber maple syrup must  
12 be free of sugar crystals and may not be damaged in any way.

14 C. "Grade A Dark Amber" means pure maple syrup that is free  
16 of any material other than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in  
18 sanitary condition; has a color no darker than the federal  
20 Department of Agriculture's visual color standard dark amber  
22 or has a color for light transmittance between the range of  
24 60.4%Tc to 44.0%Tc; and may have a flavor that is stronger  
26 than that of Grade A Medium Amber, but that is not sharp,  
28 bitter, buddy or off-flavor. Grade A Dark Amber must meet  
30 the density requirement of Fancy Grade. Grade A Dark Amber  
32 maple syrup must be free of sugar crystals and may not be  
34 damaged in any way.

36 D. "Grade B" means pure maple syrup that is free of any  
38 material other than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in  
40 sanitary condition; has a color for light transmittance  
42 between the range of 43.9%Tc to 27.0%Tc; and may have a  
44 flavor stronger than Grade A Dark Amber. Grade B must meet  
46 the density requirements of Fancy Grade. Grade B maple  
48 syrup must be free of sugar crystals and may not be damaged  
50 in any way.

E. "Commercial Grade" means pure maple syrup that is free  
of any material other than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in  
a sanitary condition; has a color for light transmittance  
less than 27.0%Tc; and may have a strong flavor. Commercial  
Grade maple syrup must be free of sugar crystals and may not  
be damaged in any way. Commercial Grade maple syrup may not  
be placed in packaged maple syrup containers and may not be  
sold, offered for sale or exposed for sale as packaged maple  
syrup.

F. "Substandard" means bulk maple syrup that fails to meet  
the requirements of any other grade. Such syrup may not be  
placed in packaged maple syrup containers and may not be  
sold, offered for sale or exposed for sale as packaged maple  
syrup.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes new grading standards for maple  
syrup. The new standards are the same as the standards for maple  
syrup in Vermont.