

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

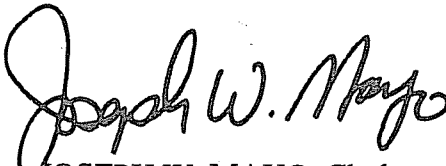
No. 1361

H.P. 1015

House of Representatives, April 29, 1993

**An Act to Define Responsibilities of the Commission on Biotechnology
and Genetic Engineering.**

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WHITCOMB of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Representative: TARDY of Palmyra.

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

4 Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §231, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

6 1-A. Mission. The purpose of the commission is to allow
8 the public access to the safe and proper use of biotechnology and
10 genetic engineering products while safeguarding public health,
12 safety and welfare and protecting the natural resources of the
14 State.

16 Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §233, as amended by PL 1989, c. 798, §2, is
18 repealed.

20 Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §233-A is enacted to read:

22 §233-A. Powers and duties

24 The commission has the following powers and duties:

26 1. Regulation of genetically engineered products. The
28 commission has full authority to regulate the commercial use,
30 movement into and within the State and release into the
32 environment of genetically engineered products, to the extent
34 permissible under federal law. The commission may establish
36 standards for the issuance and renewal of permits for the release
38 into the environment of genetically engineered products and waste
40 products. In applying this authority the commission shall
42 consider the following:

44 A. The adequacy of federal regulations and state rules
46 affecting biotechnology, genetic engineering, particular
48 genetically engineered products and waste products;

50 B. The consistency of federal and state policies affecting
the biotechnology and genetic engineering industries;

C. The adequacy of federal and state laws governing release
of genetically engineered products and waste products into
the environment and the consequence of the release of those
products and waste products to public health, safety and
welfare; and

D. The risks to the public and the environment created by
the use of biotechnology and genetic engineering products
and waste products, including the risk that particular
genetically engineered products may have negative social or
economic consequences;

2. Research. To encourage research designed to further new
and more extensive uses of the resources of the State and to

2 promote and encourage the advancement of research in
biotechnology and genetic engineering;

4 3. Coordination. To formulate and coordinate state
policies and to serve as liaison between the State and the
6 federal agencies on matters affecting the biotechnology and
genetic engineering industries;

8
10 4. Rules. To adopt rules relating to biotechnology and
genetic engineering pursuant to the Maine Administrative
12 Procedure Act; and

14 5. Other. To take other appropriate actions to carry out
the purpose of this chapter.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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20 This bill clarifies the mission of the Commission on
22 Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering. The bill also redefines
the powers and duties of the commission setting forth specific
criteria for regulating genetically engineered products.