

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

12/8

L.D. 1717

2

DATE: 4/11/94

(Filing No. H-1096)

4

6

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

8

10

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
116TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

12

14

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1273, L.D. 1717, Bill, "An Act Regarding the Inspection of Maine Potatoes"

18

Amend the amendment by striking out all of section 8 and inserting in its place the following:

20

22

Sec. 8. Study commission established. The Commission to Study Potato Quality Issues is established to study the management and operation of the quality inspection program. The commission consists of 9 members.

24

26

1. Five members are appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows: 3 Legislators, one member representing the Maine State Employees Association and one member representing the Agricultural Bargaining Council.

32

2. Three members are selected by the Governor from a list of nominees provided by the Maine Potato Board. The list provided by the Maine Potato Board must contain 2 nominees from each of the following: the Table Stock Executive Council, the Dealers' Executive Council and the Maine Potato Quality Control Board. The Governor shall select 3 of the nominees, one from each council and one from the board.

34

36

38

40

3. One member is the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources or the commissioner's designee.

42

HOUSE AMENDMENT

R. & S.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1273,
L.D. 1717

2 4. All appointments are made by the President of the Senate
4 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and must be made
6 no later than 30 days from the effective date of this section.
8 The first meeting of the commission must be no later than 15 days
following the completion of appointments. The President of the
Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
elect a chair from among the members.

10 5. The duties of the commission are to study methods that
12 would improve the efficiency of the inspection program, increase
14 the use of inspection services and reduce costs. In conducting
the study, the commission may:

16 A. Hold public hearings;

18 B. Meet at such times and places as the commission
determines necessary and hold informational sessions for
discussions with knowledgeable persons;

20 C. Conduct, summarize and analyze the results of a
22 literature search of data pertaining to potatoes;

24 D. Conduct, tabulate and analyze the results of a survey of
the public or affected persons and groups;

26 E. Conduct legal research and prepare opinions on legal
28 questions within the scope of the study; and

30 F. Determine and summarize the legislative actions or
32 governmental programs undertaken in other jurisdictions
related to issues within the scope of the study.

34 6. The Legislative Council shall provide staff assistance
upon the request of the commission, including assistance in
36 preparing any recommended legislation.

38 7. The members of the commission are not entitled to
40 compensation other than reimbursement for expenses, as defined in
the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 379, upon
42 application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

44 8. The commission shall submit its report, together with
any necessary implementing legislation, to the joint standing
46 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture
matters no later than April 15, 1995.

48 **Sec. 9. Transfer of funds.** Notwithstanding the provisions of
the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1585, no later

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1273,
L.D. 1717

than April 15, 1994, the Department of Agriculture, Food and
Rural Resources shall transfer up to \$3,500 from the Maine Potato
Board to the Legislature toward the actual expenses incurred by
the Commission to Study Potato Quality Issues.

Sec. 10. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from
Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1994-95
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF	
Marketing Services - Agriculture	
All Other	\$3,000
Provides for the allocation of funds for additional operating costs of the Branding Law Program.	
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES TOTAL	<u>\$3,000</u>
LEGISLATURE	
Commission to Study Potato Quality Issues	
All Other	\$3,500
Provides for the allocation of funds to cover the operating expenses of the Commission to Study Potato Quality Issues.	
LEGISLATURE TOTAL	<u>\$3,500</u>
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	<u>\$6,500</u>

Further amend the amendment by striking out all of the
fiscal note and inserting in its place the following:

R 22

2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32
34
36
38
40
42
44
46

FISCAL NOTE

1994-95

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

Other Funds \$6,500

This bill includes an Other Special Revenue allocation of \$3,000 in fiscal year 1994-95 for the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to cover additional operating costs of the Branding Law program. The Marketing Services program within the department has adequate financial resources to cover these increased costs.

This bill includes an Other Special Revenue allocation of \$3,500 in fiscal year 1994-95 for the Legislature to fund the operating costs of the Commission to Study Potato Quality Issues. Funding for this allocation is provided by a transfer of dedicated funds from the Maine Potato Board. The board has adequate financial resources to implement this funding transfer.

The authorization for the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund, as administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, to sell up to \$2,000,000 of its existing loans to the Finance Authority of Maine is likely to result in additional funds received by the department from the sale of these loans. As authorized by this bill, any funds received from the sale of the loans may be used to make new loans. The amounts can not be determined at this time.

The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

The Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources will incur some minor additional costs to explore the development of a special rate for electricity used by certain potato processors. These costs can be absorbed within the agencies' existing budgeted resources.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment establishes a Commission to Study Potato Quality Issues. The amendment also strikes the appropriation

R & S

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1273,
L.D. 1717

section of the committee amendment and replaces it with an
allocation section and adds a new fiscal note.

SPONSORED BY: *Robert Tardy*
(Representative TARDY)

TOWN: Palmyra

HOUSE AMENDMENT