

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
116TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

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

**Sec. 8. Study commission established.** The Commission to Study the Management and Operation of the Maine Potato Quality Control Board is established to study the management and operation of that quality inspection program. The commission consists of 9 members: 4 Legislators; one member representing the Maine State Employees Association; one member representing the Agricultural Bargaining Council; one member that must be a licensed dealer; one member representing table stock producers and one member representing the Maine Potato Quality Control Board.

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

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

A. Hold public hearings;

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. The Legislative Council shall provide staff assistance upon the request of the committee, including assistance in preparing any recommended legislation.

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

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

**Sec. 9. Transfer of funds.** Notwithstanding the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1585, by August 1, 1994 the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall transfer \$3,500 in dedicated revenue from the Marketing Services Program to the Legislature for the purpose of funding the Commission to Study the Management and Operation of the Maine Potato Quality Control Board.

**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 &  
RURAL RESOURCES  
TOTAL**

\$3,000

**LEGISLATURE**

**Commission to Study the Management  
and Operation of the Maine Potato  
Quality Control Board**

All Other

\$3,500

Provides for the allocation of funds to  
cover the operating expenses of the  
Commission to Study the Management and  
Operation of the Maine Potato Quality  
Control Board.

**LEGISLATURE  
TOTAL**

\$3,500

**TOTAL ALLOCATIONS**

\$6,500'

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

**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 the Management and Operation of the Maine Potato Quality Control Board. Funding for this allocation is provided by a transfer of dedicated funds from the Marketing Services Program within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. The department has adequate financial resources in this program 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 the Management and Operation of the Maine Potato Quality Control Board. The amendment also strikes the appropriation section of the committee amendment and replaces it with an allocation section and adds a new fiscal note.

SPONSORED BY:

(Senator PARADIS)

COUNTY: Aroostook