

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

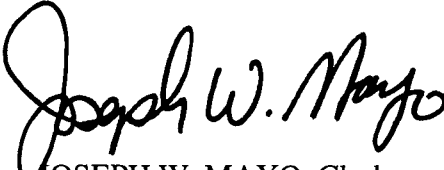
No. 267

H.P. 208

House of Representatives, January 27, 1995

**An Act to Require Labeling of Milk Products From Cows Treated with
Recombinant Bovine Somatotropin.**

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HEESCHEN of Wilton.
Cosponsored by Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, AULT of Wayne,
CHARTRAND of Rockland, CHASE of China, DEXTER of Kingfield, JONES of Bar
Harbor, KILKELLY of Wiscasset, MARSHALL of Eliot, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, Senators:
MILLS of Somerset, PINGREE of Knox.

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

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4 Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2901-C is enacted to read:

6 **§2901-C. rBST; notification and labeling**

8 1. Definition. As used in this section, "rBST" means
10 recombinant bovine somatotropin, a recombinant bovine growth
hormone injected into lactating cows to increase the production
of marketable milk.

12 2. Producer notification. A milk producer in this State
14 shall notify that producer's milk dealer before using rBST in the
milking herd of that producer's dairy farm. Notification must be
16 made at least 45 days before using rBST. A milk producer in this
State using rBST prior to the effective date of this section
18 shall notify that producer's dealer within 10 days of the
effective date of this section. Notifications required in this
20 subsection must be made by certified mail and sent to the
dealer's employee responsible for milk procurement at the plant
location where the milk is processed.

22 3. Failure to provide notice. If a milk producer in this
24 State fails to give the milk dealer the notice required in
subsection 2, the dealer is not required to comply with the
26 notice requirements of section 2903-A before refusing to continue
to purchase milk under any contract with that producer.

28 4. Labeling. If rBST has been used in the production of
30 milk or a milk product, the person who packages the milk or milk
product for sale must label the package to indicate that rBST has
32 been used. The department shall adopt rules to implement and
enforce this section, including rules setting forth the content
34 of the required label. The rules must be consistent with rBST
labeling guidelines issued by the United States Food and Drug
36 Administration.

38 5. Relationship to other laws. Notification of rBST use
40 made to a dealer in accordance with section 2901-B, subsection 1,
as in effect January 1, 1995, satisfies the notification
42 requirement of this section.

44 Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §2903, as amended by PL 1985, c. 32, is
46 further amended by adding before the last paragraph a new
48 paragraph to read:

It is unlawful for a person to sell at wholesale or retail
packaged milk or a packaged milk product that is not labeled as
required by section 2901-C, subsection 4.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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6 This bill requires the labeling of milk or milk products
6 sold in this State if the milk or milk products were derived from
8 cows treated with recombinant bovine somatotropin, or rBST.

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