

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1436

H.P. 1021

House of Representatives, April 27, 1995

Resolve, to Preserve the Dairy Industry in the State.

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SPEAR of Nobleboro.
Cosponsored by Representatives: AIKMAN of Poland, CROSS of Dover-Foxcroft,
HEESCHEN of Wilton, HICHBORN of Lagrange, JONES of Pittsfield, MARSHALL of
Eliot, NICKERSON of Turner, STEDMAN of Hartland, STROUT of Corinth, Senators:
CASSIDY of Washington, LONGLEY of Waldo, LORD of York.

2 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** Acts and resolves of the
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

4 **Whereas,** dairy farms provide a wholesome milk supply,
6 enhance the scenic beauty of the State by preserving open space
and provide a living for farmers and the businesses that support
8 them; and

10 **Whereas,** it is therefore imperative that the State support
the continuation of dairy farming; and

12 **Whereas,** the high operating costs of the State's dairy
14 farms, combined with the low price of milk, are forcing the
State's dairy farmers out of business; and

16 **Whereas,** a long-term approach is necessary to address the
18 needs of the State's dairy industry; and

20 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
22 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
24 safety; now, therefore, be it

26 **Sec. 1. Study commission established. Resolved:** That the
Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in
28 the State, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is
established; and be it further

30 **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists
32 of 5 members, as follows:

34 1. Three Legislators from the Joint Standing Committee on
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, appointed jointly by the
36 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
Representatives; and

38 2. Two representatives of the State's dairy industry,
40 appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Resources; and be it further

42 **Sec. 3. Appointments; first meeting; chair. Resolved:** That all
44 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall
46 notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon
making their appointments. The Chair of the Legislative Council
48 shall call the commission together for its first meeting no later
than August 15, 1995. At the first meeting, the commission shall
50 select a chair from among its legislative members; and be it
further

2 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
situation of the Maine dairy industry and analyze options for
4 ensuring the long-term stability and competitiveness of the
industry. In conducting the study, the commission shall examine
6 the following issues:

8 1. Strategies to reduce the costs and maximize the
efficiencies of milk production;

10 2. Marketing opportunities for the State's dairy farms; and

12 3. Appropriations to the Maine Milk Commission for
14 distribution to dairy farmers.

16 In examining these issues, the commission may meet up to 6
times, and shall solicit the input of all interested parties and
18 industries; and be it further

20 **Sec. 5. Staffing assistance. Resolved:** That the commission may
request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council. Upon
22 request, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
shall cooperate fully with the commission in providing assistance
24 or data to facilitate the commission's work; and be it further

26 **Sec. 6. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
its findings, together with any necessary implementing
28 legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 117th
Legislature and to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture,
30 Conservation and Forestry no later than November 15, 1995; and be
it further

32 **Sec. 7. Reimbursement. Resolved:** That members of the
34 commission who are Legislators are entitled to receive the
legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes,
36 Title 3, section 2, for each day's attendance at commission
meetings. Nonlegislative members are entitled to receive per
38 diem reimbursement in the amount of the legislative per diem.
All members of the commission receive reimbursement for travel
40 and other necessary expenses, upon application to the Executive
Director of the Legislative Council. The Executive Director of
42 the Legislative Council shall administer the commission's budget;
and be it further

44 **Sec. 8. Transfer of funds. Resolved:** That the Department of
46 Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall transfer up to \$5,000
from the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund to the Legislature
48 toward the actual expenses incurred by the commission; and be it
further

