

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 3/20/96

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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
117TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1296, L.D. 1778, "Resolve, to Require the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to Take Various Actions in Support of the Dairy Industry"

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 1 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Agricultural research. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, in this resolve referred to as the "commissioner," shall investigate the potential to work with other northeastern states on the development and implementation of a program to apportion agricultural research among the land grant colleges in the different states with the goals of encouraging specialization and avoiding duplication; and be it further'

Further amend the resolve in section 2 by striking out all of paragraphs A and B and inserting in their place the following:

'A. Continue the discussion of the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State with Central Maine Power Company regarding stray voltage in dairy barns, diesel deferral rates and the differences in rates offered to residential and commercial customers;

B. Initiate similar discussions with other providers of electric service and initiate discussions regarding rates with other energy suppliers, including suppliers of natural gas; and'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

11.28.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1296, L.D. 1778

Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources will incur some minor additional costs to accomplish certain actions to benefit the State's dairy interests. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

The additional costs associated with working with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources on certain energy-related issues can be absorbed by the State Planning Office and the Department of Economic and Community Development utilizing existing budgeted resources.

The Maine Science and Technology Foundation and the Department of Economic and Community Development will incur some minor additional costs to work with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources on certain dairy farm issues. These costs can be absorbed within the respective agencies' existing budgeted resources.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to investigate the potential to work with other northeastern states on the development and implementation of a program to apportion agricultural research among the land grant colleges in different states with the goals of encouraging specialization and avoiding duplication. It specifies that the commissioner shall continue the discussions of the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State with Central Maine Power Company regarding stray voltage in dairy barns, diesel deferral rates and the differences in rates offered to residential and commercial customers. It also adds a fiscal note to the resolve.