

# 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)



# 117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1996

---

Legislative Document

No. 1778

H.P. 1296

House of Representatives, February 13, 1996

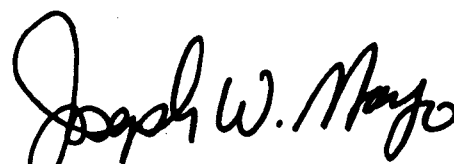
**Resolve, to Require the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to Take Various Actions in Support of the Dairy Industry.**

(EMERGENCY)

---

Reported by Representative SPEAR for the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State pursuant to Resolve 1995, chapter 35, section 6.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 20.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

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  
6           **Whereas,** the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the  
Dairy Industry in the State has developed a number of findings  
that require timely action by the Department of Agriculture, Food  
and Rural Resources; and

8  
10           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
12 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
14 safety; now, therefore, be it

16           **Sec. 1. Agricultural research. Resolved:** That the Commissioner  
of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, in this resolve  
referred to as the "commissioner," shall assist the joint  
18 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
agricultural matters, as the committee requests, to work with  
20 other northeastern states on the development and implementation  
of a program to apportion agricultural research among the land  
22 grant colleges in the different states with the goal of  
encouraging specialization and avoiding duplication; and be it  
24 further

26  
28           **Sec. 2. Energy costs. Resolved:** That the commissioner shall  
work with the utility companies, the Department of Economic and  
Community Development and the State Planning Office to:

30           A. Follow up on the commission's discussions with Central  
32 Maine Power Company;

34           B. Have similar discussions with other energy suppliers,  
including suppliers of natural gas; and

36           C. Identify and attempt to resolve suppliers' other energy  
38 issues as they affect dairy farms; and be it further

40           **Sec. 3. Value-added products. Resolved:** That the commissioner  
shall coordinate with the Cooperative Extension Service, the  
42 Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, the Maine Science and  
Technology Foundation, the Commission on Biotechnology and  
44 Genetic Engineering and the Department of Economic and Community  
Development to learn the new dairy product interests of  
46 businesses in this State and to work cooperatively with other  
states, particularly Vermont, to develop products and that the  
48 commissioner keep dairy industry businesses aware of value-added  
research and development activities; and be it further

50

2           **Sec. 4. Promotion regulation. Resolved:** That the commissioner  
shall work with the Maine Milk Commission to see that dairy  
4           promotions are rejected only when there has been an affirmative  
finding that the promotion is destructive of minimum milk prices;  
and be it further

6  
8           **Sec. 5. Farm clearinghouse. Resolved:** That the commissioner  
shall establish a clearinghouse at which persons interested in  
10          selling farms and persons interested in buying farms may register  
those interests; and be it further

12          **Sec. 6. Support groups. Resolved:** That the commissioner shall  
work with the Department of Economic and Community Development  
14          and the Cooperative Extension Service to develop a plan to  
provide on-site farm management mentoring and support to dairy  
16          farms, possibly modeled after or utilizing the Service Corps of  
Retired Executives or the small business development centers and  
18          possibly utilizing the undistributed funds from the Maine Dairy  
Farm Stabilization Fund; and be it further

20          **Sec. 7. Environmental rules. Resolved:** That the commissioner  
22          shall work with the Department of Conservation and the Department  
of Environmental Protection to ensure that proposed rules that  
24          affect agriculture be brought to the attention of the Department  
of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the joint standing  
26          committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
agricultural matters; and be it further

28          **Sec. 8. Trade with Canada. Resolved:** That the commissioner  
30          shall work with the Maine Dairy Promotion Board to request that  
Maine's Congressional delegation attempt to ensure that dairy  
32          products are made part of the North American Free Trade Agreement  
with Canada; and be it further

34          **Sec. 9. Feeding. Resolved:** That the commissioner shall  
36          request the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station and the  
Cooperative Extension Service to assist farmers in developing  
38          less costly feeding programs with particular emphasis on better  
quality forage and the use of intensive grazing; and be it further

40          **Sec. 10. Status reports. Resolved:** That the commissioner shall  
42          provide the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
jurisdiction over agricultural matters with a written status  
44          report concerning the assignments made in this resolve by January  
1st of each year. Copies must be sent to the Executive Director  
46          of the Legislative Council and the State Law Library. Each  
report must contain an estimate of when each item will be  
48          accomplished and set a program and goals for the following year.  
Reports after the first report must additionally report on  
50          activities of the past year and progress in meeting goals set in

2 the previous report. At the request of the receiving committee,  
the commissioner shall present an oral report of this information.

4 In addition to the state report requirements of this  
6 section, the following activities have specific deadlines as  
indicated:

8 A. The commissioner shall submit a complete plan, including  
10 funding recommendations, for on-site farm support groups, as  
required in section 6, to the joint standing committee of  
12 the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural  
matters by January 1, 1997; and

14 B. In accordance with section 8, within 30 days of the  
effective date of this resolve, the commissioner shall  
16 communicate with the congressional delegation concerning  
placing dairy products in the North American Free Trade  
18 Agreement with Canada.

20 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.  
22

## 24 STATEMENT OF FACT

26 This resolve is one of 6 pieces of legislation being  
submitted by the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the  
28 Dairy Industry in the State. It requires that the Commissioner  
of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources accomplish the following:  
30

32 1. Assist the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
having jurisdiction over agricultural matters in developing a  
plan with other northeastern states to apportion agricultural  
34 research among the various land grant universities;

36 2. Work on dairy farm energy issues;

38 3. Improve communication regarding value-added dairy  
products;  
40

42 4. Ensure that the Maine Milk Commission is not being  
overly restrictive in approving dairy promotions;

44 5. Establish a clearinghouse for those desiring to sell and  
those desiring to buy farms;  
46

48 6. Develop a program for on-site management advice for  
dairy farms;

2           7.    Ensure that dairy interests are aware of proposed  
environmental rules that might affect the dairy industry; and

4           8.    Request Maine's Congressional delegation to attempt to  
6    have dairy products placed under the North American Free Trade  
Agreement with Canada. The action or trade with Canada must be  
8    initiated within 30 days of the effective date of this resolve  
and the plan for on-site management advice must be completed by  
10   January 1, 1997. The remaining activities require a yearly  
status report until accomplished. No date for final  
12   accomplishment is given.