

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: May 15, 1997

(Filing No. S-241)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Reported by: Senator Kilkelly

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 150, L.D. 429, Bill, "An Act to Protect the Potato Industry from the Spread of Serious Disease"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1.

Further amend the bill in section 2 in that part designated "~~S1007-A.~~" in subsection 2 in the 8th line (page 2, line 27 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "subsection" and inserting in its place the following: 'section'

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources will incur some additional costs to conduct certain tests of seed potato stock, administer certain procedures to prevent the spread of various potato diseases and to adopt certain rules. Some of these costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources. However, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources plans to fill a currently vacant, but previously authorized, intermittent Laboratory Assistant position to implement the tests. Funding for this position will be

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provided by existing authority to charge fees. No adjustments to allocations are required and budgeted revenue will not be significantly increased.

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may increase dedicated revenue to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

SUMMARY

This amendment removes the section of the bill that proposed changing the penalty for planting noncertified seed. This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.