

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

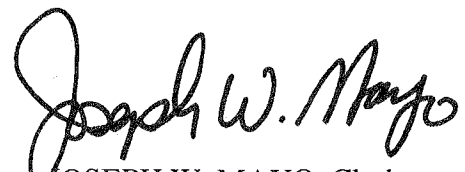
No. 2284

H.P. 1654

House of Representatives, March 23, 1998

**An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Joint Standing
Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Relating to the
Review of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
under the State Government Evaluation Act.**

Reported by Representative BUNKER for the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955,
subsection 4.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §933, sub-§1**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. C, §1, is amended to read:

6 **1. Major policy-influencing positions.** The following
8 positions are major policy-influencing positions within the
10 Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, these positions and their successor positions are subject to this chapter:

12 A. Deputy Commissioner; and

14 B. Director, Office of Planning, Policy, Legislative
16 Legislation and Information services;

18 C. ~~Director, Office of Agricultural, Natural and Rural~~
Resources;

20 D. ~~Director, Division of Plant Industry;~~

22 E. ~~Director, Division of Animal Health and Industry;~~

24 F. ~~Director, Division of Marketing and Production~~
26 Development; and

28 G. ~~Director, Division of Quality Assurance and Regulations.~~

30 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §5**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. C, §4,
is further amended to read:

32 **§5. Deputies; associates; directors**

34 The commissioner may appoint and fix the compensation of
36 ~~these deputies, associates, bureau directors, office directors~~
and ~~division directors that in the commissioner's judgment are~~
38 ~~required to assist and enable the commissioner to carry out all~~
laws, the execution of which is entrusted to the commissioner
40 positions within the department designated as major
policy-influencing positions in Title 5, section 933. These
42 ~~deputies, associates, bureau directors, office directors and~~
division directors The persons appointed to major
44 policy-influencing positions hold office during at the pleasure
of the commissioner.

46 **Sec. 3. Agricultural marketing.** During the First Regular
48 Session of the 119th Legislature, the Commissioner of
Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall submit a report to
50 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
jurisdiction over agricultural matters and to the joint standing
committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic and

2 community development matters regarding agricultural marketing
3 initiatives. The report must describe enhanced services to
4 agricultural producers and promotion of agricultural products
5 attributable to funding provided in this Act. Upon receipt of
6 the report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature
7 having jurisdiction over agricultural matters shall review the
8 operations of the Division of Market and Production Development
9 within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
10 and shall make a report to the joint standing committee of the
11 Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial
12 affairs regarding staffing and operations of the department.

13 **Sec. 4. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
14 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

15 **1998-99**

16
17 **AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL
18 RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF**

19
20 **Division of Marketing and
21 Production Development**

22
23 All Other \$150,000

24
25 Appropriates funds to develop images and to
26 develop and implement a media campaign to
27 promote Maine agriculture and agricultural
28 products and to develop buyer guides and
29 promotional materials for distribution at
30 trade shows, fairs and other targeted
31 avenues.

32
33 **Division of Marketing and
34 Production Development**

35 All Other \$100,000

36
37 Appropriates funds to identify new marketing
38 opportunities, including alternative crops
39 and expanded food processing, and to provide
40 technical assistance for production,
41 marketing and business planning.

42
43 **Division of Marketing and
44 Production Development**

45
46

2	All Other	\$50,000
4	Appropriates funds for the collection and distribution of information, including market pricing and other market information, input supplier lists and other trade support information.	
8	Division of Animal Health and Industry	
10	Personal Services	\$1,932
12	Appropriates funds to cover the additional costs of classifying the Director, Division of Animal Health and Industry position.	
16	Division of Market and Production Development	
18	Personal Services	\$2,162
20	Appropriates funds to cover the additional costs of classifying the Director, Division of Market and Production Development position.	
26	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES	
28	TOTAL	<u>\$304,094</u>

30 **FISCAL NOTE**

32 **1998-99**

34 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

36	General Fund	\$304,094
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38 This bill includes total General Fund appropriations of
40 \$304,094 in fiscal year 1998-99 for the Department of
42 Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to provide additional
44 funding for the costs of classifying 2 major policy-influencing
46 positions, for the development and implementation of a program to
48 promote the State's agricultural products, for the improvement of
the effort to market the State's agricultural products and for
the collection of certain marketing information. The General
Fund appropriations required to continue funding for these items
will be approximately \$305,000 annually beginning in fiscal year
1999-2000.

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SUMMARY

2
4 This bill implements the recommendations of the Joint
6 Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
8 relating to its review of the Department of Agriculture, Food and
10 Rural Resources under the State Government Evaluation Act. It
12 eliminates the designation of 5 management positions within the
Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources as major
policy-influencing positions. It appropriates funds to the
Division of Market and Production Development, within the
Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, to enhance
services to Maine's agricultural producers and to promote Maine
agricultural products.