

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R.D.S.

L.D. 1008

DATE: 5-19-99

(Filing No. H-615)

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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 718, L.D. 1008, Bill, "An Act to Require Labeling of Fruits and Vegetables to Identify Country of Origin"

Amend the bill by inserting before section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §524-A is enacted to read:

§524-A. Produce packed in State

When produce that was grown or raised in a foreign country is packed in this State, the label must identify the country in which the produce was grown in letters as large or larger than the letters identifying the name and place of business of the packer.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 1 in paragraph A in the 2nd line (page 1, line 13 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "~~that--was--grown--or--raised--in--a--foreign country~~" and inserting in its place the following: 'that was grown or raised in a foreign country'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 1 in paragraph C in the 3rd line (page 1, line 25 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "3" the following: 'and section 524-A'

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 718, L.D. 1008

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

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FISCAL NOTE

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8 The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources will
incur some minor additional costs to administer certain labeling
requirements. These costs can be absorbed within the
10 department's existing budgeted resources.

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This bill may increase the number of civil violations filed
14 in the court system. The additional workload and administrative
costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed can
be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial
16 Department. The collection of additional fines may also increase
General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

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SUMMARY

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This amendment adds a provision to Maine's Fair Packaging
and Labeling Act to specify that produce grown in another country
24 but packed in Maine must bear a label identifying the country of
origin in letters equal in size to the letters identifying the
26 packer. The amendment also removes the requirement that produce
produced in the United States must be labeled as to country of
28 origin. This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.