

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)

R 43

L.D. 1172

2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32
34
36
38
40
42
44
46
48
50

DATE: May 4, 1999

(Filing No. S-196)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Reported by:

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 393, L.D. 1172, "Resolve, Establishing a Task Force to Study the Need for an Agricultural Vitality Zone Program"

Amend the resolve by inserting after the title and before section 1 the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the vitality of agriculture is essential to this State; and

Whereas, the duties of the task force established by this resolve are important to maintaining and enhancing agriculture in the State; and

Whereas, the expeditious appointment of members and convening of the task force is important for a timely completion of its tasks; and

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 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it'

Further amend the resolve by striking out all of sections 2 and 3 (page 1, lines 6 to 33 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

'Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 12 members appointed as follows:

1. The Director of the State Planning Office or the director's designee;

2. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources or the commissioner's designee;

3. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;

4. One representative each from the northern, southern, eastern and western Maine regional development districts, appointed by the Governor;

5. Two citizens with experience in agriculture or agricultural marketing, appointed by the Governor; and

6. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, and 2 members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House. Appointments of House members must include one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the House and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the House; and be it further

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That, at the task force's first meeting, the task force shall select a chair from among its members; and be it further'

Further amend the resolve by striking out all of section 5 (page 1, lines 41 to 49 and page 2, lines 2 to 15 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall hold a minimum of 4 public meetings, one in each of 4 development districts; gather information; create working groups; and request necessary data from public and private entities in order to:

1. Establish a process to identify those areas of the State where there is substantial existing or evolving small-scale agricultural activity, an evolving network of support services and developed or developing regional or direct markets;

2. Target existing and potential state resources to promote agriculture and to create and support the development of agricultural vitality zones, including: farmland conservation and protection measures; job training programs, including beginning-farmer training programs; tax policy, tax credits and incentives; and grants and loans; and

2 3. Identify, examine and propose strategies or measures
4 that will benefit and expand the State's small-scale agricultural
5 enterprises, including, but not limited to, new and existing
6 marketing programs, the identification of new products and
7 services, possibilities for collaboration, the development of
8 spin-off or value-added businesses and the enhancement of support
services; and be it further'

10 Further amend the resolve in section 8 in the last line
11 (page 2, line 38 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "." and
12 inserting in its place the following: '; and be it further'

14 Further amend the resolve by inserting after section 8 the
15 following:

16 'Sec. 9. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are
17 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of
18 this resolve.

20 1999-00

22 LEGISLATURE

24 Task Force to Study the Need for an
26 Agricultural Vitality Zone Program

28	Personal Services	\$990
	All Other	7,200

30 Provides funds for the per
31 diem and expenses of
32 legislative members and the
33 expenses of other eligible
34 members of the Task Force to
35 Study the Need for an
36 Agricultural Vitality Zone
37 Program, to conduct 4 public
38 hearings and to print the
39 required report.

42 LEGISLATURE
43 TOTAL

44 \$8,190

46 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.'

48 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
49 summary the following:
50

R. 013

2

FISCAL NOTE

4

1999-00

6

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

8

General Fund

\$8,190

10

This resolve includes an additional General Fund appropriation of \$8,190 in fiscal year 1999-00 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and the expenses of other eligible members of the Task Force to Study the Need for an Agricultural Vitality Zone Program, to conduct 4 public hearings and to print the required report.

16

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the State Planning Office will incur some minor additional costs to provide staffing and to participate as members of the task force. These costs can be absorbed within those agencies' existing budgeted resources.

22

The Department of Economic and Community Development will incur some minor additional costs to participate as a member of the task force. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.'

28

SUMMARY

30

This amendment changes membership of the Task Force to Study the Need for an Agricultural Vitality Zone Program and allows the members to select a chair. It requires a minimum of 4 public meetings, one in each of the State's 4 development districts. It clarifies that the task force is to target existing and evolving agriculture. It also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the resolve. This amendment also adds an appropriation section and fiscal note to the resolve.

38