

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.S.

L.D. 1418

DATE: 4-15-99

(Filing No. H-228)

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. 1007, L.D. 1418, Bill, "An Act Concerning Blueberry Growing Practices"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Direct the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station to Conduct a Pilot Project on Blueberry Cultivation in the St. John River Valley'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Pilot project to study the cultivation of blueberries along the St. John River Valley. Resolved: That the Director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station shall develop a pilot project to study the feasibility of cultivating wild blueberries as a crop along the St. John River Valley between Allagash and Caswell. The director shall meet with landowners in the area interested in participating in a pilot project. Working with interested landowners, the director shall use resources available to the experiment station to assess suitability of soils and response to burning as a cultivation technique. The director shall seek grant money from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and other appropriate sources to conduct the pilot project; and be it further

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January 15, 2000 on progress in securing funds and developing the pilot project.'

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

FISCAL NOTE

The additional costs associated with developing and conducting a pilot project on the cultivation of wild blueberries can be absorbed by the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Maine utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve to direct the Director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Maine to develop and conduct a pilot project on the cultivation of wild blueberries along the St. John River Valley using existing resources and grant money from appropriate sources.