

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NATURAL RESOURCES

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1032, L.D. 1454, Bill, "An Act to Promote Ethanol Production as Alternative Fuel"

Amend the bill in section 2 by striking out all of that part designated "~~§997-B.~~" and inserting in its place the following:

'§997-B. Agricultural Products Utilization Commission

The Agricultural Products Utilization Commission, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 6-F, referred to in this section as the "commission," shall advise the members of the authority on the adoption, amendment or repeal of rules, policies or administrative procedures for carrying out section 997-A. In addition, the commission shall advise the members of the authority on environmental impact considerations, including the impact that agriculturally derived fuels may have on ground water.

1. Membership. The commission consists of 11 members. Five members must be appointed by the Governor for terms of 2 years each, arranged so that 2 terms expire in odd-numbered years and 3 terms expire in even-numbered years; 3 of these must be actively engaged in farming in this State and 2 members appointed by the Governor must be actively engaged in business in this State. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall appoint one member for a term of 2 years, which expires in odd-numbered years. The member appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources must be actively engaged in farming in this State. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall appoint one member for a term of 2 years, which

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expires in even numbered years. Commission members may be reappointed to the commission. Terms of members run from the first day of July. The Director of Economic and Community Development, the President of the University of Maine, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, or their designees, are members of the commission. The commission shall elect one of its members as chair.

2. Commission meetings; staff. The commission shall meet as necessary and shall report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, food and rural resources matters on the commission's activities and deposits and expenditures from the Agriculturally Derived Fuel Fund. The authority shall provide staff and support services to the commission.'

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

FISCAL NOTE

This bill establishes the Agriculturally Derived Fuel Fund to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. General Fund appropriations or funding from other sources will be required to capitalize the fund.

The Finance Authority of Maine will incur additional costs for the per diem and expenses of members of the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission and to provide staff and support services to the commission. These costs can be absorbed by the authority utilizing existing budgeted resources.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Maine System will incur some minor additional costs to participate as members of the commission. These costs can be absorbed within the respective agencies' existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment adds the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and a member appointed by that commissioner to the commission. The amendment also requires annual reports to the

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- 2 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
over natural resources matters and the joint standing committee
4 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, food and
rural resources matters. This amendment also adds a fiscal note
to the bill.

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