MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2407

H.P. 1701

House of Representatives, January 10, 2000

An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating Farm Wineries.

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BRUNO of Raymond.

	Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
2	become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
	as emergencies; and
4	
	Whereas, the changes proposed by this Act need to take
б	effect before the expiration of the 90-day period to enable a
	farm winery in this State to commence business; and
8	
	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
10	create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
	Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
12	necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
	safety; now, therefore,
14	
	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
16	•
	Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §1355, sub-§3, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:
18	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	A-1. A holder of a farm winery license may fortify wine
20	produced by the farm winery license holder and import
	spirits solely for this purpose. If the farm winery license
22	holder produces fortified wine pursuant to this paragraph,
	the combined total of wine, sparkling wine and fortified
24	wine produced at the farm winery may not exceed 50,000
	gallons per year. For purposes of this paragraph,
26	"fortified wine" means wine to which spirits have been added
	as long as the resulting liquor does not exceed 24% alcohol
28	by volume.
30	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the
	preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.
32	
34	SUMMARY
26	
36	This bill allows the holder of a farm winery license to
2.0	fortify wine and import spirits as long as those spirits are used
38	exclusively for the fortification of wine produced by the farm
4.0	winery license holder. The bill maintains the current production
40	limitation of 50,000 gallons and prohibits the winery from
	fortifying the wine beyond an alcohol content of 24%.