

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)



121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 315

H.P. 258

House of Representatives, January 28, 2003

An Act To Provide a Discount to Farmers Who Are Certified as Organic Farmers and Lease Land from the State

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative HUTTON of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec and
Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, KOFFMAN of Bar
Harbor, NORTON of Bangor, PATRICK of Rumford, THOMPSON of China, TWOMEY of
Biddeford, Senator: MARTIN of Aroostook.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §6209, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

6 7. Discount on certain leases. When farmland acquired
8 pursuant to this chapter is leased, the state agency or
10 cooperating entity acting as the lessor in the lease agreement
12 shall determine the fair market value of the lease. The state
14 agency or cooperating entity acting as the lessor shall discount
16 the lease fee by 50% when the lessee obtains organic
18 certification from an organization accredited as a certifying
20 agent by the National Organic Program within the United States
22 Department of Agriculture for products grown on the land. The
24 lessee may apply for reimbursement equal to the amount of the
discount for the 3-year period immediately preceding the organic
certification. The discounted rate applies as long as the lessee
maintains organic certification for products grown on the land.

SUMMARY

22 This bill provides for a discounted lease fee for farmland
24 acquired under the Land for Maine's Future program and leased for
agricultural production when the lessee attains organic
certification.