

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5-22-03

(Filing No. S-229)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 893, L.D. 1219, Bill, "An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Genetically Engineered Plants"

Amend the amendment by striking out the substitute title and replacing it with the following:

'Resolve, To Study the Current and Future Benefits of Agricultural Biotechnology'

Further amend the amendment by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting in their place the following:

'Sec. 1. Study of potential benefits to Maine's agriculture and forestry industries through use of currently available and future agricultural biotechnology products and practices and its relationship to organic marketing. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall convene a working group to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages and make recommendations regarding current and future benefits of agricultural biotechnology to the majority of Maine's farmers and citizens. The working group shall examine the growing organic market sector in the State and examine the issue of cross-pollination of organic crops with biotech and nonorganic crops and potential loss of market premium. To further study how the organic industry can be promoted and protected, the working group shall review the National Organic Program of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service. In addition, using available data from Maine's organic farming industry, the working group shall examine sales, farm locations, total acreage and type and maturation of crops planted in order to ascertain the likelihood, if any, of loss of market premium due to cross-pollination with biotech-derived crops. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall serve as chair and invite the following to participate as members of the working group:

SENATE AMENDMENT

2 1. Two members of the Senate who serve on the Joint
4 Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,
selected by the President of the Senate;

6 2. Three members of the House of Representative who serve
8 on the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and
Forestry, selected by the Speaker of the House;

10 3. A scientist from the Maine Agricultural Center at the
12 University of Maine;

14 4. A representative from the Grocery Manufacturers of
America or National Food Processors Association; and

16 5. A representative from each of the following entities,
18 selected by the respective body or executive director of each:

20 A. The Maine Farm Bureau;

22 B. The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association; and

24 C. CropLife America, a trade association representing
biotech companies.

26 The participants in the working group serve without
28 compensation, except that the legislative members of the working
30 group are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined in the
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for
32 travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance
at authorized meetings of the working group. The Department of
34 Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall provide staff for the
working group using existing department resources. The
36 commissioner shall report the results of the study to the Joint
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no
later than December 15, 2003; and be it further

38 **Sec. 2. Authority to report out legislation. Resolved:** That the
40 Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and
Forestry may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session
42 of the 121st Legislature pursuant to the recommendations of the
commissioners' study report.'

44
46 **SUMMARY**

48 This amendment directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Resources to convene a working group to study the

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 893,
L.D. 1219

2 potential benefits of agricultural biotechnology. It authorizes
the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and
4 Forestry to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session
of the 121st Legislature regarding its findings.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

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SPONSORED BY:



(Senator KNEELAND)

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COUNTY: Aroostook

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**121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review**

LD 1219

**Resolve, To Study the Current and Future Benefits of Agricultural
Biotechnology**

LR 0544(04)

**Fiscal Note for Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A"
Sen. Kneeland**

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current Costs - Legislative Study

Legislative Study

This amendment allows Legislators on the working group to be compensated. The projected costs to fund per diem and expenses for the legislators of the working group are \$2,100 in fiscal year 2003-04. The Legislature has budgeted \$30,000 in fiscal year 2003-04 for legislative studies. Whether the amount is sufficient to fund all studies in fiscal year 2003-04 will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature.