

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5-14-03

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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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

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

'Resolve, To Ensure the Integrity and Enhance the Marketing of Maine Agricultural Crops'

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

'Sec. 1. Working group on potential for marketing Maine agricultural products as "genetically engineered free." Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall convene a working group to develop an approach, discuss advantages and disadvantages and make recommendations regarding a marketing initiative to promote Maine agricultural products that are free of genetically engineered materials. The Director of Marketing and Production Development within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall participate in the working group. The commissioner shall serve as chair or may appoint the Director of Marketing and Production Development to serve as chair. The commissioner shall select a vice-chair from among the members of the working group. The commissioner shall invite the following to participate as members of the working group:

- 1. A researcher from the Maine Agricultural Center at the University of Maine with expertise in consumer economics and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

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experience in designing a labeling policy for genetically modified food;

2. A person with experience in retail food sales;

3. Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;

4. A representative from each of the following entities, as may be appointed by the respective executive body or executive director of each:

A. A consumer food cooperative;

B. The Maine Farm Bureau; and

C. The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association.

All participants in the working group serve without compensation. No later than January 15, 2004, the commissioner shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with a summary of the working group's discussion and recommendations; and be it further

Sec. 2. Authority to report out legislation. Resolved: That the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature regarding measures to ensure the integrity of genetically engineered and nongenetically engineered crops.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. It directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to convene a working group to develop an approach for and discuss the potential of a marketing initiative to promote Maine agricultural crops as free of genetically engineered materials. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature regarding measures to protect the integrity of genetically engineered and nongenetically engineered crops.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Approved: 05/12/03 *MAC*

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



LD 1219

**An Act To Ensure the Integrity and Enhance the Marketing of Maine
Agricultural Crops**

LR 0544(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund