

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1270

H.P. 942

House of Representatives, March 11, 2003

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### An Act To Increase the Viability of the Dairy Farming Industry

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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TWOMEY of Biddeford.  
Cosponsored by Senator HATCH of Somerset and  
Representatives: ASH of Belfast, GOODWIN of Pembroke, HATCH of Skowhegan,  
LUNDEEN of Mars Hill, SAVIELLO of Wilton, SMITH of Monmouth, SMITH of Van  
Buren, THOMPSON of China.

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

4 **CONCEPT DRAFT**  
6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

10 The purpose of this bill is to address the significant  
12 disparity revealed by recent studies, which found that Maine  
dairy farmers spend significantly more on production costs than  
those in other Northeastern states.

14 This bill proposes to tax large retail stores and use the  
16 proceeds to aid the dairy farming industry. Under this bill, a  
tax would be imposed on so-called "big box" stores. Funds  
18 collected pursuant to the tax would be dedicated to a fund that  
would be disbursed to dairy farms to cover the true costs of  
20 production of milk by the first 44 cows owned by that dairy.  
This amount would equal \$22.81 per hundred pounds of milk. Under  
22 the bill, no disbursements would be made with respect to milk  
produced after the first 44 cows.