

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 1459

S.P. 487

In Senate, March 27, 2003

### **An Act To Bring the State into Conformity with the National Organic Program**

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Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRYANT of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Representative McKEE of Wayne and  
Senator: KNEELAND of Aroostook, Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, PINEAU of Jay,  
PIOTTI of Unity.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 103, sub-c. 1-A, as amended, is repealed.**

6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill repeals the statutes relating to the certification  
and labeling of foods as natural, organic or from Maine due to  
10 the establishment of a national organic program in October 2002  
by the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural  
12 Marketing Service. The national program establishes standards  
for the production and handling of fresh and processed organic  
14 foods, as well as labels and labeling requirements for organic  
products, and is carried out by accredited certifying agencies.  
16 The State has chosen not to offer organic certification services  
under the new federal program because of limited staffing and  
18 resources and in order to avoid competing with the private sector  
for these services. Consequently, the State's organic  
20 certification program is obsolete.