

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1461

H.P. 1066

House of Representatives, March 27, 2003

An Act To Improve Participation in the Farms for the Future Program

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.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

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

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

4 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §318, sub-§2, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 1999, c. 763, §1, is amended to read:

6 B. The degree of threat to the continuation of agricultural
8 use of the land due to factors such as the financial
10 capacity and current farm management practices of the
12 applicant ~~and development pressures in the area where the
14 farm is located.~~

12 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §318, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 1999, c. 763,
14 §1, is repealed.

16 **Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §319, sub-§2, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 1999, c.
18 763, §1, is amended to read:

18 B. The degree of threat to the continuation of agricultural
20 use of the land due to factors such as the financial
22 capacity and current farm management practices of the
24 applicant ~~and development pressures in the area where the
26 farm is located;~~ and

24 **Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §319, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 1999, c. 763,
26 §1, is amended to read:

28 **4. Farmland protection agreement.** A selected farm must
30 enter into a 2nd 5-year farmland protection agreement with the
32 department before the department provides investment support
34 pursuant to this section. The agreement must provide that the
36 farm will protect the land in agricultural use from
38 nonagricultural development for the period of the agreement. The
40 ~~5-year term of the 2nd farmland protection agreement must run
42 consecutively with a first farmland protection agreement entered
44 into by the selected farm pursuant to section 318.~~ A selected
46 farm may terminate a 2nd the farmland protection agreement at any
time if the farm repays the department for any funds provided to
the farm by the department pursuant to this section.

40 **SUMMARY**

42 This bill eliminates the need for farmers to enter into a
44 farmland protection covenant with the State as a condition for
46 state funding for development of a business plan. It also makes
all farmers eligible rather than just those who face development
pressure.