

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 961

H.P. 671

House of Representatives, February 24, 2005

An Act To Establish the Agricultural Water Management Fund

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 LUNDEEN of Mars Hill.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FLOOD of Winthrop, JENNINGS of Leeds, JODREY of Bethel, PINEAU of Jay, PIOTTI of Unity, Senator: RAYE of Washington.

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 8-E is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 8-E

AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT FUND

§251. Agricultural Water Management Fund

1. Fund: established. There is established the Agricultural Water Management Fund, referred to in this chapter as "the fund," which is a nonlapsing fund. The commissioner may accept money for the fund from any public or private source and make expenditures from the fund for the purpose of improving the adoption of irrigation by agricultural businesses in the State.

2. Administration. The commissioner shall administer the fund.

3. Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter. All rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4. Report. The commissioner shall submit an annual report on March 1st to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters. The report must include a summary of funds available, use of the fund and the status of agricultural irrigation in the State.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a fund in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources that would accept money from any source for the purpose of improving the adoption of irrigation for agricultural businesses.