MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 876

H.P. 666

House of Representatives, February 27, 2007

Resolve, To Study Maine's Agricultural Creative Economy Sector

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PIEH of Bremen.
Cosponsored by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, GIFFORD of Lincoln, HOLMAN of Fayette, PERCY of
Phippsburg, PIOTTI of Unity, SMITH of Monmouth, Senators: RAYE of Washington,
SHERMAN of Aroostook.

- Sec. 1. Departments to study the creative, rural agricultural value-added sector of the State's economy. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, in collaboration with the Department of Labor, Department of Economic and Community Development and Department of Conservation, shall undertake a study of the creative, rural agricultural value-added sector of the State's economy. The study must include consideration of:
- 1. The economic impact of farmers in the State expanding their businesses and diversifying their products to meet local demand for locally grown produce, meats, artisan and specialty food products, the use of shared-use kitchens and farm-to-school programs;
- 2. Barriers to small-scale food production that cater to the tourist trade and local demand;
 - 3. Creation of a cabinet-level advisory board comprising representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, Department of Labor, Department of Economic and Community Development and Department of Conservation to develop long-term strategies in agriculture and agricultural value-added businesses in all aspects of economic development;
 - 4. Creation of positions in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to develop and nurture the agricultural creative economy, including veterinarians, dairy inspectors, meat inspectors, livestock marketing specialists, home and small food processing specialists, advisors on new trends such as shared-use kitchens and farm-to-school programs and agricultural and business liaison specialists; and
 - 5. Funding for the marketing of agricultural and food products from the State, a food policy council, a revolving loan program and training in cooperation with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in business and food processing; and be it further
 - **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall submit a report on the results of the study undertaken pursuant to section 1 along with any recommended legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature no later than December 5, 2007.

30 SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the
Department of Labor, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the
Department of Conservation to collaborate on a study of the creative, rural agricultural
value-added sector of the State's economy.

This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to submit the study to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature along with any recommended legislation no later than December 5, 2007.