

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

Date: 3/28/08

L.D. 2245
(Filing No. H-862)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
123RD LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1606, L.D. 2245, Bill, "An Act To Promote the Agricultural Economy"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

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

1. Eligibility. An applicant must own ~~at least 5 acres of land in agricultural use and a farm that has been producing agricultural products commercially in the State for at least 2 years at the time of application.~~ The applicant must submit an application to the department to be eligible for participation in the program pursuant to procedures developed by the department.

Amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 3 in paragraph B in the first line (page 2, line 3 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Instruction" and inserting the following: 'Instruction Department-approved instruction'

Amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 3 in paragraph B by striking out all of the last sentence.

Amend the bill in section 4 in subsection 1 in the 4th line (page 2, line 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "or" and inserting the following: 'and'

Amend the bill in section 4 in subsection 2 in the 3rd line (page 2, line 23 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "4" the following: 'and farms that are eligible to apply for a reduced-interest loan under section 435, subsection 3-A'

Amend the bill in section 4 by inserting after subsection 4 the following:

5. Review of business plan. The department shall arrange to review the business plan for a farm selected to receive a grant under subsection 2 within 2 years of the date the grant is awarded.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1606, L.D. 2245

1 Amend the bill in section 13 in subsection 3-A in the 3rd line (page 4, line 22 in L.D.)
2 by inserting after the following: "318" the following: 'for a farm determined eligible
3 under section 319'

4 **SUMMARY**

5 This amendment removes a cross-reference to a definition of "agricultural
6 enterprise," allowing any additional definitions needed to implement the Maine Farms for
7 the Future Program to be established in rule. It specifies that instruction or classroom
8 training in economics or business planning required for participation in the program must
9 be approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. It allows a
10 participant in the program who completes a business plan to apply for a reduced-interest
11 loan, a grant or both. The amendment specifies that the review panel's responsibility to
12 develop a competitive process applies to both applications for grants and eligibility to
13 apply for reduced-interest loans. It also requires the department to review a business plan
14 within 2 years of awarding a grant for implementation of the plan.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED.
(See attached).

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2245

LR 3522(02)

An Act To Promote the Agricultural Economy

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"
Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study
Minor cost increase - Other Funds

Legislative Cost/Study

The estimated costs for the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to meet three times to review the recommendations included in the agriculture creative economy report are projected to be \$4,875 in fiscal year 2008-09. The Legislature's proposed budget includes \$20,000 in fiscal year 2008-09 for legislative studies. Whether the amount is sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the Finance Authority of Maine can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.