

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 922

H.P. 682

House of Representatives, March 8, 2011

### Resolve, To Streamline the Laws Governing Small Slaughterhouses

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.  
Cosponsored by Senator SCHNEIDER of Penobscot and  
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, GIFFORD of Lincoln, KENT of  
Woolwich, O'BRIEN of Lincolnville.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day  
4 period in order for the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to report  
5 back to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry before  
6 the end of the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature; and

7 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
8 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
9 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
10 therefore, be it

11 **Sec. 1. Examination of laws and rules governing small slaughterhouses.**

12 **Resolved:** That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall  
13 examine the laws and rules governing small slaughterhouses with particular emphasis on  
14 obstacles that prevent small slaughterhouses from processing many different species of  
15 animals as efficiently and safely as possible. The department shall examine the process it  
16 uses to answer questions posed to it by owners and operators of small slaughterhouses  
17 and describe steps it will take to ensure that the answers it provides are in writing and  
18 timely, clear, consistent and complete. The department shall report its findings to the  
19 Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than May 1,  
20 2011. The Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may  
21 submit legislation to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature on the subject  
22 matter of the department's report.

23 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
24 legislation takes effect when approved.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to  
27 examine the laws and rules governing small slaughterhouses with particular emphasis on  
28 obstacles that prevent small slaughterhouses from processing many different species of  
29 animals as efficiently and safely as possible. The department shall examine the process it  
30 uses to answer questions posed to it by owners and operators of small slaughterhouses  
31 and describe steps it will take to ensure that the answers it provides are in writing and  
32 timely, clear, consistent and complete. The department shall report its findings to the  
33 Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than May 1,  
34 2011. The Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may  
35 submit legislation to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature on the subject  
36 matter of the department's report.