

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maj.

JMG
ROES
2

Date: 5/5/11

L.D. 969

(Filing No. H-196)

Majority

3

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

5

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STATE OF MAINE

7

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

8

125TH LEGISLATURE

9

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

10

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 713, L.D. 969, "Resolve, To Adjust
11 Composting Limits for Farms"

12

Amend the resolve in section 1 in the last line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out
13 the following: "2-A." and inserting the following: '2-A; and be it further'

14

Amend the resolve by inserting after section 1 the following:

15

**'Sec. 2. Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to
16 examine operations requiring a compost management plan. Resolved:** That
17 the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, referred to in this section as
18 "the department," shall review agricultural composting operations that are exempt from
19 licensing as a solid waste facility under the Department of Environmental Protection
20 Rules, Chapter 410, Section 1, Paragraph B, Subparagraphs (4), (5), (6) and (7).

21

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall report to the Joint
22 Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January 3,
23 2012 with recommendations for statutory changes needed to clarify or enhance the
24 department's oversight of agricultural composting operations. For the purposes of this
25 section, "agricultural composting operations" means composting that takes place on farms
26 and uses only animal manure, animal carcasses and offal, fish waste, leaves, wood chips,
27 animal bedding and other vegetative waste and produce and other vegetable and food
28 waste.

29

The Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may report
30 out a bill during the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature pertaining to
31 oversight of agricultural composting operations.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to review exemptions from licensing under the Department of Environmental Protection that are contingent on a composting facility's operating in accordance with a compost management plan approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources is directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January 3, 2012 with recommendations for any statutory changes needed to clarify or enhance the department's oversight of agricultural composting operations. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to report out a bill in the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 969

LR 1621(02)

Resolve, To Adjust Composting Limits for Farms

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"
Committee: Environment and Natural Resources
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds
Minor revenue decrease - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to amend its composting rules will result in minor increased costs that DEP can absorb within existing budgeted resources. The amended rules may exempt certain facilities from licensing and regulatory requirements resulting in a minor revenue decrease to DEP. Additional costs to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources associated with reviewing agricultural composting operations that are exempt from licensing as a solid waste facility and reporting recommendations for statutory changes can be absorbed with existing staff and within existing budgeted resources.