

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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JMM
R. 4. 8.

Date: 4/18/2013

(Filing No. S- 310)

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3 AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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5 STATE OF MAINE

6 SENATE

7 126TH LEGISLATURE

8 FIRST REGULAR SESSION

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 120, L.D. 287, Bill, "An Act To
10 Improve Funding of Agricultural Development Projects"

11 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

12 'Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §306-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 72, §5, is amended
13 to read:

14 3. Rulemaking. The commissioner shall establish, by rule, in a manner consistent
15 with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter H-A 2-A criteria for the allocation of grant money,
16 application requirements consistent with the provisions of this section, a schedule for
17 accepting and reviewing applications, reporting requirements on grant expenditures and
18 project results and any other administrative requirements necessary for the efficient
19 implementation of this program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine
20 technical major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter H-A 2-A.
21 The commissioner is guided by the following criteria:

22 A. Applications may be submitted by individuals, firms or organizations in response
23 to a request for proposals for competitive grants. The commissioner may also contract
24 directly with individuals, firms or organizations for a special project under section
25 307;

26 B. ~~At least 25%~~ A percentage of the total cost of any project must be funded by the
27 applicant or applicants and ~~at least 10%~~ a percentage of the total cost must be funded
28 from nonpublic sources. These percentages must be established by rule. A single
29 grant may not exceed ~~20%~~ 50% of the total funds available to be granted in a given
30 year; ~~however, in no case may a single grant exceed \$30,000;~~

31 C. Information relative to market research or development activities provided to the
32 commissioner prior to formal application, included in grant applications or provided
33 to the commissioner to fulfill reporting requirements is confidential information and
34 may not be publicly disclosed by the commissioner as long as:

35 (1) The person to whom the information belongs or pertains has requested that
36 certain information be designated as confidential; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. 0. 3.

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(2) The commissioner has determined that the information gives the person making the request opportunity to obtain business or competitive advantage over another person who does not have access to the information or will result in loss of business or other significant detriment to the person making the request if access is provided to others; and

D. When possible, the commissioner shall award grants to applicants representing diverse agricultural enterprises and geographic areas of the State.'

SUMMARY

This amendment is the unanimous report of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It requires that rules adopted regarding the implementation and use of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's agricultural development fund are major substantive rules in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 04/01/13 *MAC*

126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 287

LR 382(02)

An Act To Improve Funding of Agricultural Development Projects

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A" (S-36)

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry associated with rulemaking can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.