

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 287

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S.P. 120

In Senate, February 7, 2013

### **An Act To Improve Funding of Agricultural Development Projects**

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Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BOYLE of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative CRAY of Palmyra and  
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, DILL of Old Town, GIFFORD of Lincoln, NOON of  
Sanford, SAUCIER of Presque Isle.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §306-A, sub-§3, ¶¶A and B**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 72, §5,  
3 are amended to read:

4 A. Applications may be submitted by individuals, firms or organizations in response  
5 to a request for proposals for competitive grants. Individuals, firms or organizations  
6 may also be contracted with directly for a special project under section 307;

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

12 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §306-A, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 72, §5, is amended to  
13 read:

14 **4. Advisory committee.** The commissioner shall establish the Agricultural  
15 Development Committee to evaluate market and production development competitive  
16 grant applications and review project results.

17 **Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §307**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 72, §6, is further amended to  
18 read:

19 **§307. Special projects**

20 The commissioner may contract directly with the University of Maine System or  
21 qualified individuals, firms or organizations for market research, for testing new  
22 technologies and for research on ~~pressing, short-term~~ technical problems related to the  
23 production, marketing, storage and processing of agricultural commodities.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill amends the laws governing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation  
26 and Forestry's agricultural development fund to provide more flexibility with respect to  
27 grants and contracts and allow the department to directly fund agricultural development  
28 projects.