

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 409

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H.P. 284

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

### **An Act To Establish a Veteran-to-farmer Training Pilot Program**

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop.  
Cosponsored by Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook and  
Representatives: KESCHL of Belgrade, MAKER of Calais, POULIOT of Augusta, RUSSELL  
of Portland, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SCHNECK of Bangor, SHORT of Pittsfield, Senator:  
WHITTEMORE of Somerset.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to establish the Veteran-to-farmer Training Pilot Program.

6 1. The bill will require the University of Maine System, the Maine Community  
7 College System, the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation  
8 and Forestry and the Department of Veterans and Emergency Management to design a  
9 pilot program for a postsecondary education certificate program that will enable United  
10 States military veterans to develop necessary skills in farming while also addressing the  
11 difficulties some veterans face in transitioning back to civilian life after military service.

12 2. The certificate program would provide a hands-on farming skills training  
13 curriculum, classroom-based business training, business start-up support and health  
14 monitoring for veterans.

15 3. After its design, the curriculum will be submitted to the United States Department  
16 of Veterans Affairs for approval in order to allow eligible veterans to use federal G.I. Bill  
17 education benefits for participation in the certificate program.

18 4. Completion of the certificate program would enable veterans to create new farm  
19 businesses and to meet the requirements to acquire the leases and loans needed to farm.