

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 304

S.P. 119

In Senate, February 10, 2015

An Act To Support Marketing of Maine's Farms and Fisheries

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
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop and
Senators: DILL of Penobscot, GERZOFKY of Cumberland, Representatives: BEAVERS of
South Berwick, BRYANT of Windham, DUNPHY of Old Town.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §436-B** is enacted to read:

3 **§436-B. Competitive grants for business planning and feasibility studies**

4 An agricultural enterprise may receive grant funding from the accrued interest in the
5 cash balance of the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund, as established in Title 10, section
6 1023-J, for the purposes of developing a business plan or conducting a feasibility study
7 for new infrastructure projects in accordance with this section.

8 **1. Eligibility.** The commissioner may authorize through the use of a competitive
9 process the release of grant funds to an applicant for the purposes of developing a
10 business plan or conducting a feasibility study for a new infrastructure project if the
11 commissioner determines that:

12 A. The new infrastructure project described in the application has merit;

13 B. The new infrastructure project is designed to support the operation of an
14 agricultural enterprise under the provisions of this subchapter and Title 10, section
15 1023-J; and

16 C. The business plan for the new infrastructure project is inadequate or the
17 application does not include a business plan.

18 **2. Limitations.** The amount of funds released for the purposes of developing a
19 business plan or feasibility study under subsection 1 may not exceed 50% of the cost of
20 developing the business plan or conducting the feasibility study.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill allows the accrued interest in the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund to be
23 used for competitive grants that would fund feasibility studies or business planning for
24 new infrastructure projects that would support the operation of an agricultural enterprise.