

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1369

H.P. 948

House of Representatives, April 11, 2017

An Act To Support Local Agricultural Production

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ZEIGLER of Montville.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, DUNPHY of Old Town,
HICKMAN of Winthrop, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, LUCHINI of Ellsworth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §213, sub-§§3 and 4** are enacted to read:

3 **3. Implementation schedule.** The following percentages of foodstuffs purchased by
4 a state or school purchaser, except for a school purchaser at a school that participates in
5 the National School Lunch Program in accordance with 7 Code of Federal Regulations,
6 Part 210 (2007), must come directly from Maine food producers or from food brokers
7 who assist in the distribution of foodstuffs produced or harvested by Maine food
8 producers:

9 A. By December 31, 2023, at least 15%;

10 B. By December 31, 2027, at least 20%;

11 C. By December 31, 2037, at least 25%; and

12 D. By December 31, 2038, at least 35%.

13 **4. Grant program; exemptions.** The department shall establish a grant program to
14 provide assistance with kitchen modifications at state and school facilities that provide
15 meals but are lacking equipment to prepare foodstuffs that come directly from Maine
16 food producers or from food brokers who assist in the distribution of foodstuffs produced
17 or harvested by Maine food producers. The grant program may provide assistance to fund
18 up to 80% of needed kitchen modifications and to fund up to one full-time employee to
19 prepare foodstuffs produced or harvested by Maine food producers. The department shall
20 include in the program a process to provide exemptions for state and school facilities that
21 have kitchens that cannot be modified to prepare foodstuffs that come directly from
22 Maine food producers or from food brokers who assist in the distribution of foodstuffs
23 produced or harvested by Maine food producers from the requirements in subsection 3.

24 There is created the Maine Foodstuffs Grant Program Fund, a nonlapsing fund in the
25 department. The fund must be used by the department for the purposes of this subsection.
26 The fund may receive and accept allocations, appropriations, grants and contributions of
27 money for the program.

28 The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this subsection. Rules adopted
29 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375,
30 subchapter 2-A.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill creates the following implementation dates and minimum percentages
33 regarding Maine foodstuffs that state and school purchasers must purchase directly from
34 Maine food producers or food brokers: at least 15% by December 31, 2023, 20% by
35 December 31, 2027, 25% by December 31, 2037 and 35% by December 31, 2038. It
36 excepts from the requirements school purchasers at schools participating in the National
37 School Lunch Program.

38 It also establishes a grant program to provide assistance with kitchen modifications at
39 state and school facilities that lack equipment to prepare Maine foodstuffs and directs the

1 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to implement the grant program.
2 Grant funds may be used for kitchen modifications or funding kitchen staff at a facility to
3 prepare Maine foodstuffs. The grant program provides a process for exemptions for
4 institutions with kitchens that cannot be modified to prepare Maine foodstuffs from the
5 requirement to meet the implementation schedule.