

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1598

H.P. 1101

House of Representatives, May 11, 2017

**An Act To Allow the Commercial Growth and Sale of Water
Spinach in the State**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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 LAWRENCE of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator HILL of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 419** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 419**

4 **WATER SPINACH**

5 **§2461. Water spinach permitting**

6 The department shall provide information about the proper process for obtaining a
7 permit from the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health
8 Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine program to an individual seeking to
9 grow and sell Ipomoea aquatica Forssk., commonly referred to as water spinach. The
10 State shall complete such a permit and approve the commercial growth and sale of water
11 spinach in the State as long as the permittee follows the federal Plant Protection and
12 Quarantine program's containment facility guidelines for noxious weeds and parasitic
13 seed plants in the construction of any greenhouse and operational performance standards
14 for the handling and movement of the plants after sale.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to
17 provide information about the proper process for obtaining a federal permit to individuals
18 seeking to grow and sell water spinach in Maine and requires the State to allow the
19 commercial growth and sale of water spinach as long as the permittee follows federal
20 guidelines in the construction of any greenhouse and in the handling of the plants after
21 sale.