

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1159

H.P. 848

House of Representatives, March 7, 2019

Resolve, To End Hunger in Maine by 2030

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: Speaker GIDEON of Freeport, KRYZAK of Acton, MAXMIN of Nobleboro,
PLUECKER of Warren, ROBERTS-LOVELL of South Berwick, STROM of Pittsfield,
TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** the Legislature finds that, for the economic and social well-
2 being of the people of the State, all people must be free from hunger, food insecurity,
3 malnutrition, starvation or endangerment of life from scarcity of or lack of access to
4 nourishing and culturally appropriate food; and

5 **Whereas,** the human, social and economic costs of hunger, food insecurity and
6 malnutrition to the State are enormous and far reaching, leading to lost productivity,
7 health-related problems, reduced well-being, decreased learning ability, reduced
8 fulfilment of human potential and social and political unrest that undermines
9 development efforts; and

10 **Whereas,** one in 4 children in Maine goes to bed hungry every night, 37% of the
11 Maine people who face hunger, food insecurity or malnutrition do not qualify for any
12 public assistance and Maine ranks first in New England and 9th in the nation for food
13 insecurity; and

14 **Whereas,** many emergency food relief sites in the State regularly lack fresh fruits
15 and vegetables and other nutrient-dense foods for residents struggling with hunger, food
16 insecurity or malnutrition; and

17 **Whereas,** for the consumer, producer and the environment, the cost of food
18 produced by and for the global industrial food system has risen in the last decade; and

19 **Whereas,** 90% of the food Maine people consume is imported from elsewhere; and

20 **Whereas,** Maine has all the natural resources and hard-working, self-reliant people
21 to grow, catch, harvest and process enough food to reduce imports and provide the people
22 of the State with a diet based more on Maine-produced foods and yet state food policy to
23 date has not significantly reduced hunger, food insecurity or malnutrition for the people
24 of the State; now, therefore, be it

25 **Sec. 1. Plan to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in the**
26 **State. Resolved:** That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in
27 consultation and collaboration with interested parties and stakeholders, including, but not
28 limited to, statewide and community-based advocacy and emergency food relief
29 organizations and nonprofit organizations, financial institutions, private foundations,
30 interfaith religious councils, farmers, persons who fish commercially, food producers,
31 state and local granges, civic organizations, regional, local and community food policy
32 councils and people who struggle with hunger, food insecurity or malnutrition, shall
33 collaborate with the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries
34 and Wildlife, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor,
35 the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of
36 Education, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of
37 Maine Veterans' Services and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension to develop
38 a comprehensive strategic plan to eliminate hunger in the State by 2030. The strategic
39 plan designed under this resolve must at least:

40 1. Use existing programs, staff and resources to the extent possible;

1 Wildlife, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the
2 Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Education,
3 the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine
4 Veterans' Services and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension to develop a
5 comprehensive strategic plan to eliminate hunger in the State by 2030. The Department
6 of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to submit an initial design for the
7 plan by February 10, 2020 to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation
8 and Forestry, which may submit legislation based on the report to the Second Regular
9 Session of the 129th Legislature.