

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1998

S.P. 717

In Senate, February 23, 2022

**An Act To Establish a Disaster Relief Fund for Potato Farmers
Adversely Affected by Drought Conditions**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake and
Senator: DILL of Penobscot, Representatives: MARTIN of Sinclair, McCREA of Fort
Fairfield, O'NEIL of Saco, WHITE of Mars Hill.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 8-A, sub-c. 4** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 4**

4 **POTATO FARMERS DISASTER RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM**

5 **§220-A. Potato Farmers Disaster Relief Grant Program**

6 **1. Grant program established.** The Potato Farmers Disaster Relief Grant Program,
7 referred to in this section as "the program," is established in the department to assist potato
8 farmers in the State to overcome the adverse effects of drought conditions by providing
9 grants in accordance with this section.

10 **2. Eligibility.** A potato farmer in the State may apply for a grant under the program if,
11 as a result of drought conditions, the farmer's potato yield is significantly lower than that
12 farmer's expected crop yield as determined by the most recent agricultural yield survey
13 conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics
14 Service.

15 **3. Potato Farmers Disaster Relief Grant Program Fund.** The Potato Farmers
16 Disaster Relief Grant Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund to provide funding
17 to achieve the purposes of the program. The fund consists of any funds received from
18 private and public sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money,
19 funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must
20 be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

21 **4. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement the program. The rules must
22 include grant eligibility requirements, grant application and award procedures and grant
23 funding limits. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as
24 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill establishes the Potato Farmers Disaster Relief Grant Program to assist potato
27 farmers in the State to overcome the adverse effects of drought conditions by providing
28 grants.