

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE NO. 137

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*House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1915.*

*Ordered, That five hundred copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Agriculture.*

*Committee on Reference.*

*Presented by Mr. Peterson of New Sweden.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN

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AN ACT to amend Section one of Chapter sixty of the Revised Statutes, as amended by Section one of Chapter ninety-eight of the Public Laws of 1909, relating to the duties of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

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

Section one of chapter sixty of the revised statutes, as  
2 amended by section one of chapter ninety-eight of the public  
3 laws of 1909, is hereby amended by striking out the word  
4 "three" in the twenty-third line of said section and substi-  
5 tuting in place thereof the word 'four,' so that said section  
6 as amended shall read as follows:

Section 1. A state department of agriculture shall be maintained for the improvement of agriculture and the advancement of the interests of husbandry. A commissioner of agriculture shall be elected biennially by the legislature by joint ballot of the senators and representatives in convention, and shall hold his office for the term of two years and until his successor is elected and qualified. He shall give bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars to the state, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the treasurer of state, conditioned to faithfully account for all moneys received and disbursed by him as said commissioner. He shall by personal observation, investigation and correspondence, acquaint himself with the methods and wants of practical husbandry, the means of fertilization, and the adaptation of various products to the soils and climate of Maine; also with the progress of scientific and practical agriculture elsewhere, with a view to the more complete development of the natural resources of the state. The commissioner of agriculture shall gather statistics of information concerning agriculture and publish the same annually; he shall assist the farmers of the state, in so far as is practical, to secure farm help, and to promote increased production of farm crops through the selection, the growing and the dissemination of superior strains of seeds. An appropriation of four thousand dollars annually shall be made, to be expended by the commissioner of agriculture for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section and section five of chapter sixty of the re-

34 vided statutes, and for such other purposes and in such man-  
35 ner as in his judgment will best promote the interests of  
36 agriculture in this state.'