

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F I R S T L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 741

H. P. 1241

House of Representatives, February 26, 1943.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Bartlett of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-THREE

AN ACT Permitting the Department of Agriculture to Encourage and Promote Farming During the Present Emergency and Provide for the Rehabilitation of Farm Families After the War.

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

Sec. 1. Commissioner of agriculture to make agreements; five acre farm clubs. When in his judgment it appears to be for the best interest of the welfare of the people of the state, the commissioner of agriculture, with the approval of the governor and council, is authorized to enter into and execute, on behalf of the department of agriculture, with the owners or parties in possession of tracts of land, deemed by him to be suitable for agricultural purposes, agreements necessary to encourage and promote the production thereon of farm food products and such agreements may, with the approval of the governor and council, provide for the subdivision of such land into lots of not more than 5 acres each and may be designed to encourage and promote the formation thereon of Five Acre Farm Clubs.

The 5 acre plots so laid out may at the discretion of the commissioner contain not more than 1 acre of woodland and all such agreements entered

into by the commissioner shall provide for immediate cultivation or agricultural improvement of such lots.

Sec. 2. Revolving fund; use of. There shall be established in the department of the treasurer of state, by authority of the governor and council, a revolving fund for use in promoting the purposes of this act as hereinafter provided.

This revolving fund so established shall not be in excess of \$1,000,000. This fund shall be available to members of Five Acre Farm Clubs, approved by the commissioner of agriculture, who own their land free of all encumbrances, for the purpose of building thereon homes and necessary outbuildings, plans and specifications for which shall be provided by or approved by the commissioner, such buildings to have a value when completed of not less than \$2000. This fund may also, at the discretion of the commissioner, be made available for the purchase of farming implements and supplies. All use of the revolving fund shall be had at a low rate of interest to be determined by the governor and council and shall be secured by a first mortgage on the property to be improved or cultivated which mortgage shall provide monthly payments on principal and interest over a period of 20 years and which shall require the mortgagor to accept refinancing of same through established banking or savings and loan institutions when available.