

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 295**

H. P. 442

House of Representatives, January 31, 1951.

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Ricker of Turner.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Relating to Cooperative Agricultural Extension Work.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., c. 27, § 237, amended.** Section 237 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 237. Manner in which work may be carried on.** Cooperative agricultural extension work shall consist of the giving of practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics, and imparting information on said subjects through field demonstrations, publications and otherwise; and this work shall be carried on in each county in such manner as may be mutually agreed upon by the executive committee of the ~~farm bureau of such county~~ **extension association**, provided for in section 238, and the trustees of the University of Maine, College of Agriculture, or their duly appointed representatives.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 27, § 238, amended.** Section 238 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

**'Sec. 238. Organizations to be known as "county extension associations" to be formed.** For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of sections 236 to 240, inclusive, there may be created in each county or combination

of 2 counties within the state an organization to be known as a "farm bureau," in the following manner: whenever a number not less than 200 of bona fide rural residents within any county or combination of 2 counties in the state shall have effected temporary organization for doing extension work in agriculture and home economics, and "county extension association," and its services available to all residents of a county. Such county extension association shall have adopted a constitution and set of bylaws acceptable to the University of Maine, College of Agriculture, and they shall be recognized as the official body within said county or counties for carrying on extension work in agriculture and home economics within said county or counties in cooperation with the University of Maine, College of Agriculture. Such organization may make such regulations and bylaws for its government and the carrying on of its work as are not inconsistent with the provisions of said sections; provided that any county farm bureau or other county organization within any of the counties in the state that is now doing extension work in agriculture and home economics in cooperation with the University of Maine, College of Agriculture, upon complying with the provisions of this section, shall be the recognized farm bureau of the county or counties where it is located, and provided further that but one such organization shall be formed in each county.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 27, § 239, amended. Section 239 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 239. County extension association to prepare budget; county commissioners may levy tax. The executive committee of each county farm bureau extension association shall annually prepare an annual financial budget for the 12 months beginning January 1st next thereafter, showing in detail its estimate of the amount of money to be expended under the provisions of sections 236 to 240, inclusive, within the county or counties for such 12 months; shall submit the same to a vote of the bureau association at the regular annual meeting and, if the budget is approved by a majority vote of the members of the bureau association present at such meeting, the executive committee shall submit the same to the board of county commissioners on a date in December approved by said county commissioners, and the county commissioners shall include the amount of this budget in the appropriations by them annually recommended, and levy a tax therefor; provided further, however, that the amount thus raised by direct taxation within any county or combination of counties for the purposes of sections 236 to 240, inclusive, shall be not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$2,000 annually. Provided, however annually per county extension agent; provided further, that in these counties having the services

of more than 2 extension agents at the request of the county farm bureau extension association made on the said date in December, the county commissioners of the county may allow an amount in excess of \$2,000, but not exceeding \$4,000 the minimum specified, which shall also be included in the budget and for which a tax shall be levied. These funds shall be used for the maintenance of the county extension service, including salaries of agents and clerks, office rental, supplies, equipment, postage, telephone, and for such other expenses as necessary to maintain an efficient and effective county extension service. Whenever the inhabitants of 2 counties shall unite for organization in one farm bureau association the amount of the tax assessed upon each county shall be in the proportion which the number of farm bureau members last state valuation in that county bears to the total number of members of the last state valuation in the 2 counties so united.'

Sec. 4. R. S., c. 27, § 240, amended. Section 240 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 240. Annual report to be rendered to trustees of University of Maine, College of Agriculture and to county commissioners. It shall be the duty of each said county farm bureau described in the preceding sections extension association, annually, on or before the 10th day of December, to present its plan of extension work for the ensuing year and to render to both the trustees of the University of Maine, College of Agriculture, and the county commissioners a full detailed report of its extension activities for the preceding fiscal year, including a detailed report of its receipts and expenditures from all sources; and the financial report of such county farm bureau extension association shall be on such forms as may be prescribed by the trustees of the University of Maine, College of Agriculture.'