

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 1994 to June 30, 1995

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 29, 1995

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1995

their professional development needs, programs and resources; and

7. Consider the benefits of coordinating regional and statewide professional development calendars of events to ensure equitable opportunities for all school systems; and be it further

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall present its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs and the Task Force on Learning Results by January 15, 1996.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 35

H.P. 1021 - L.D. 1436

Resolve, to Preserve the Dairy Industry in the State

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, dairy farms provide a wholesome milk supply, enhance the scenic beauty of the State by preserving open space and provide a living for farmers and the businesses that support them; and

Whereas, it is therefore imperative that the State support the continuation of dairy farming; and

Whereas, the high operating costs of the State's dairy farms, combined with the low price of milk, are forcing the State's dairy farmers out of business; and

Whereas, a long-term approach is necessary to address the needs of the State's dairy industry; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Study commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State, referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the commission consists of 13 members, as follows:

1. Five Legislators, at least 2 of whom must be members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

2. The following 8 members, appointed by the Governor:

A. One representative of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources;

B. One dairy farmer who supplies the Maine market;

C. One dairy farmer who supplies the Boston market;

D. One dairy farmer who supplies the co-op market;

E. One representative of a milk processing operation;

F. One representative of a bank or firm that provides farm financing, with expertise in the milk industry;

G. One representative from the Department of Economic and Community Development; and

H. One representative of a company or firm that supplies dairy farmers with equipment or feed, or both; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments; first meeting; chair. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making their appointments. The Chair of the Legislative Council shall call the commission together for its first meeting no later than August 15, 1995. At the first meeting, the commission shall select a chair from among its legislative members; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall study the situation of the Maine dairy industry and analyze options for ensuring the long-term stability and competitiveness of the industry. In conducting the study, the commission shall examine the following issues:

1. Strategies to reduce the costs and maximize the efficiencies of milk production;

2. Marketing opportunities for the State's dairy farms;

3. Appropriations to the Maine Milk Commission for distribution to dairy farmers; and

4. Any other topics the commission by majority vote determines relevant to its study.

In examining these issues, the commission shall solicit the input of all interested parties and industries; and be it further

Sec. 5. Staffing assistance. Resolved: That the commission may request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council. Upon request, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall cooperate fully with the commission in providing assistance or data to facilitate the commission's work; and be it further

Sec. 6. Report. Resolved: That the commission shall submit its findings, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 117th Legislature and to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than December 15, 1995; and be it further

Sec. 7. Reimbursement. Resolved: That members of the commission who are Legislators are entitled to receive the legislative per diem as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for each day's attendance at commission meetings. Nonlegislative members are entitled to receive per diem reimbursement in the amount of the legislative per diem. All members of the commission receive reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses, upon application to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall administer the commission's budget; and be it further

Sec. 8. Transfer of funds. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall transfer up to \$8,000 from the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund to the Legislature toward the actual expenses incurred by the commission; and be it further

Sec. 9. Allocation. Resolved: That the following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

1995-96	
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF	
Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund	
All Other	\$10,000

Allocates funds to be paid to the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact committee, a Vermont nonprofit corporation, for the purpose of encouraging approval by the United States Congress of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES	
TOTAL	\$10,000

LEGISLATURE	
Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State	
Personal Services	\$3,630
All Other	4,370

Provides funds to the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State for the per diem of legislative members, expenses of all members and miscellaneous commission expenses.

LEGISLATURE	
TOTAL	\$8,000

TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$18,000
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Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective June 27, 1995.

CHAPTER 36
S.P. 583 - L.D. 1568
Resolve, to Extend the Reporting Deadline for the Blue Ribbon Commission on Hunger and Food Security