

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
November 28, 1995 to December 1, 1995

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 3, 1996 to April 4, 1996

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 4, 1996

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

guidelines regarding the seal can be relaxed or eliminated; and be it further

Sec. 3. Promotion goals. Resolved: That the board shall set specific goals for this promotion in keeping with the overall objectives of increasing consumer awareness of the seal to result in greater use of the seal by milk processors. One goal must be the desired objective regardless of funding and one goal must be the objective obtainable with existing funding. The board shall conduct activities that are necessary to set these goals and measure the program against those goals; and be it further

Sec. 4. Review. Resolved: That the board shall give the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources the opportunity to review and comment on all activities required by this resolve. If the board becomes a nongovernmental agency, the commissioner shall work with the board to complete the activities of this resolve; and be it further

Sec. 5. Deadline. Resolved: That the board shall begin additional promotion of the Maine Quality Seal no later than 180 days after the effective date of this resolve; and be it further

Sec. 6. Transfer of funds. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall transfer \$50,000 from the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund to the Maine Dairy Promotion Board to be used toward the expenses incurred for promotion of the Maine Quality Seal; and be it further

Sec. 7. Allocation. Resolved: That the following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

1996-97

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Dairy Promotion Board

All Other	\$50,000
Provides funds transferred from the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund to the Maine Dairy Promotion Board to increase promotion of the Maine Quality Seal for the Maine dairy industry.	

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective April 2, 1996.

CHAPTER 69

H.P. 1296 - L.D. 1778

Resolve, to Require the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to Take Various Actions in Support of the Dairy Industry

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

Whereas, the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State has developed a number of findings that require timely action by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; 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. Agricultural research. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, in this resolve referred to as the "commissioner," shall investigate the potential to work with other northeastern states on the development and implementation of a program to apportion agricultural research among the land grant colleges in the different states with the goals of encouraging specialization and avoiding duplication; and be it further

Sec. 2. Energy costs. Resolved: That the commissioner shall work with the utility companies, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the State Planning Office to:

- A. Continue the discussion of the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State with Central Maine Power Company regarding stray voltage in dairy barns, diesel deferral rates and the differences in rates offered to residential and commercial customers;
- B. Initiate similar discussions with other providers of electric service and initiate discussions regarding rates with other energy suppliers, including suppliers of natural gas; and

C. Identify and attempt to resolve suppliers' other energy issues as they affect dairy farms; and be it further

Sec. 3. Value-added products. Resolved:

That the commissioner shall coordinate with the Cooperative Extension Service, the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, the Maine Science and Technology Foundation, the Commission on Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering and the Department of Economic and Community Development to learn the new dairy product interests of businesses in this State and to work cooperatively with other states, particularly Vermont, to develop products and that the commissioner keep dairy industry businesses aware of value-added research and development activities; and be it further

Sec. 4. Promotion regulation. Resolved:

That the commissioner shall work with the Maine Milk Commission to see that dairy promotions are rejected only when there has been an affirmative finding that the promotion is destructive of minimum milk prices; and be it further

Sec. 5. Farm clearinghouse. Resolved:

That the commissioner shall establish a clearinghouse at which persons interested in selling farms and persons interested in buying farms may register those interests; and be it further

Sec. 6. Support groups. Resolved:

That the commissioner shall work with the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Cooperative Extension Service to develop a plan to provide on-site farm management mentoring and support to dairy farms, possibly modeled after or utilizing the Service Corps of Retired Executives or the small business development centers and possibly utilizing the undistributed funds from the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund; and be it further

Sec. 7. Environmental rules. Resolved:

That the commissioner shall work with the Department of Conservation and the Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that proposed rules that affect agriculture be brought to the attention of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters; and be it further

Sec. 8. Trade with Canada. Resolved:

That the commissioner shall work with the Maine Dairy Promotion Board to request that Maine's Congressional delegation attempt to ensure that dairy products are made part of the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada; and be it further

Sec. 9. Feeding. Resolved: That the commissioner shall request the Maine Agricultural

Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service to assist farmers in developing less costly feeding programs with particular emphasis on better quality forage and the use of intensive grazing; and be it further

Sec. 10. Status reports. Resolved: That the commissioner shall provide the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters with a written status report concerning the assignments made in this resolve by January 1st of each year. Copies must be sent to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the State Law Library. Each report must contain an estimate of when each item will be accomplished and set a program and goals for the following year. Reports after the first report must additionally report on activities of the past year and progress in meeting goals set in the previous report. At the request of the receiving committee, the commissioner shall present an oral report of this information.

In addition to the state report requirements of this section, the following activities have specific deadlines as indicated:

A. The commissioner shall submit a complete plan, including funding recommendations, for on-site farm support groups, as required in section 6, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters by January 1, 1997; and

B. In accordance with section 8, within 30 days of the effective date of this resolve, the commissioner shall communicate with the congressional delegation concerning placing dairy products in the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

Effective April 2, 1996.

CHAPTER 70

S.P. 752 - L.D. 1865

**Resolve, to Extend the Reporting
Deadline of the Export Financing
Services Study Group**

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