

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

December 2021

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY**

LD 568 An Act To Establish a Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within the Land for Maine's Future Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 135 establishes the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The law also establishes the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within the Land for Maine's Future program for farmland protection projects. The fund is administered by the Land for Maine's Future Board in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Public Law 2021, chapter 135 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 10, 2021.

LD 630 An Act To Prohibit Shelf-stable Products from Being Sold as Cider

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 111 provides that any product that has been heat treated may not be labeled as "cider." The law also clarifies that all hard cider that contains not less than 1/2 of 1% alcohol by volume is not subject to the labeling requirements for cider.

LD 691 An Act To Support Farms and Address Food Insecurity

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 468 establishes the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to provide incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and nutrition assistance programs.

The law provides one-time funding of \$25,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to capitalize the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives to be used to match contributions from private and public sources.

Fund recipients must be state-based organizations that support local food producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and nutrition assistance, with priority given to organizations that have a demonstrated history of incentivizing the use of federal food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrate the ability to leverage the proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources.