

126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1521

H.P. 1092

House of Representatives, May 9, 2013

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry To Create a Pilot Program To Support the State's Small Food Processors

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative McCABE of Skowhegan.

1 Sec. 1. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to create 2 pilot program to support small food processors in the State. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall create a pilot program, 3 4 referred to in this resolve as "the program," to support small food processors in the State. 5 The program must be modeled on the Maine Farms for the Future Program under the 6 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 10-B and administered by the Department of 7 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, either directly or by contract with a suitable 8 organization. The program must provide assistance to an eligible small food processor in 9 developing a detailed business plan that involves changes in the processor's operation to increase the vitality of the business and must provide investment money to help 10 implement the plan. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall 11 12 organize a review panel to evaluate and approve applications for participation in the program and for investment support; and be it further 13

Sec. 2. Criteria; program elements; funding. Resolved: That the
 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall develop:

16 1. Criteria for determining what a small food processor is and for determining 17 eligibility to participate in the program;

Program elements, including developing a business plan for a participating small
 food processor and assembling a service package using outside providers to assist in
 developing the business plan; and

3. Funding for the program, including investment support for a participating small
food processor from grants or loans from various funding sources; and be it further

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2014, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall issue a report including any suggested legislation to implement the program to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may submit legislation based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to
 develop a pilot program to assist small food processors similar to the Maine Farms for the
 Future program.