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Legislative Document

No. 1584

S.P. 557

In Senate, May 4, 2017

**An Act To Expand the Local Foods Economy by Promoting Local
Foods Procurement**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop and
Senators: DILL of Penobscot, SAVIELLO of Franklin, Representatives: ALLEY of Beals,
DUNPHY of Old Town, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, TEPLER of Topsham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §401-B, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

3 **7. Good local foods procurement program.** The commissioner shall establish and
4 promote a good local foods procurement program, referred to in this subsection as "the
5 program."

6 A. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following
7 terms have the following meanings.

8 (1) "Community supported agriculture" means an arrangement in which
9 individual consumers have agreements with a farmer to be provided with food or
10 other agricultural products produced on the farmer's farm.

11 (2) "Farmers' market" has the same meaning as in section 415, subsection 1,
12 paragraph A.

13 (3) "Good local foods" means foods that are:

14 (a) Produced or harvested in this State;

15 (b) Healthy, safe, wholesome and nutritious and meet the dietary guidelines
16 for Americans published jointly by the United States Department of Health
17 and Human Services and the United States Department of Agriculture;

18 (c) Affordable;

19 (d) Accessible to all residents of this State;

20 (e) Equitably distributed so that producers and harvesters receive and
21 consumers pay a reasonable price and so that producers and harvesters have
22 an equal opportunity to sell foods and consumers have an equal opportunity
23 to purchase foods; and

24 (f) Sustainably produced in terms of water, soil and pesticide management.

25 B. The program must help farmers and fishermen in this State by increasing demand
26 for and direct purchasing of their products by individuals and institutions with a goal
27 of increasing the sale and purchase of good local foods by 20% no later than 2025
28 and supporting local economies, farms, fisheries, jobs, nutrition, environmental
29 sustainability and animal welfare. The program also must improve access to good
30 local foods.

31 C. The program must increase the purchase of good local foods by public and private
32 institutions in this State, including, but not limited to, primary and secondary schools,
33 colleges and universities, hospitals, jails, community centers serving senior citizens,
34 child care centers, restaurants and grocery stores. The commissioner shall establish
35 guidelines to assist these institutions to assess their ability to procure good local foods
36 while minimizing costs.

37 D. The program must provide education and outreach for the purpose of supporting
38 farms, farmers' markets, community supported agriculture and seafood providers to
39 further the goal of increasing the sale and purchase of good local foods.

- 1 must educate recipients of food supplement program benefits of the opportunity to use the
- 2 benefits at farmers' markets and the advantages of such use.