



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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No. 1648

S.P. 605

In Senate, October 16, 2017

**An Act To Amend the Law Recognizing Local Control Regarding
Food Systems and Require Compliance with Federal and State Food
Safety Regulations**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on October 13, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Heather J.R. Priest in cursive.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

1 **2. Local food system.** "Local food system" means a community food system within
2 a municipality that integrates food production, processing, consumption, direct producer-
3 to-consumer exchanges and other traditional foodways to enhance the environmental,
4 economic, social and nutritional health and well-being of the municipality and its
5 residents.

6 **§283. Statement of policy; local control and rural economic development**

7 It is the policy of this State to encourage food self-sufficiency for its citizens. The
8 department shall support policies that:

9 **1. Local control.** Through local control, preserve the ability of communities to
10 produce, process, sell, purchase and consume locally produced foods;

11 **2. Small-scale farming and food production.** Ensure the preservation of family
12 farms and traditional foodways through small-scale farming and food production;

13 **3. Improved health and well-being.** Improve the health and well-being of citizens
14 of this State by reducing hunger and increasing food security through improved access to
15 wholesome, nutritious foods by supporting family farms and encouraging sustainable
16 farming and fishing;

17 **4. Self-reliance and personal responsibility.** Promote self-reliance and personal
18 responsibility by ensuring the ability of individuals, families and other entities to prepare,
19 process, advertise and sell foods directly to customers intended solely for consumption by
20 the customers or their families; and

21 **5. Rural economic development.** Enhance rural economic development and the
22 environmental and social wealth of rural communities.

23 **§284. Home rule authority; local food and community self-governance**

24 Pursuant to the home rule authority granted to municipalities by Title 30-A, section
25 3001 and by the Constitution of Maine, Article VIII, Part Second, and notwithstanding
26 any other provision of law to the contrary, a municipality may adopt ordinances regarding
27 local food systems and community self-governance that set forth provisions that apply
28 exclusively to direct producer-to-consumer food exchanges and other traditional
29 foodways, and the State shall recognize such ordinances, except as provided in section
30 285.

31 **§285. Departmental authority; livestock and poultry**

32 In every political subdivision of the State, including a municipality that adopts or
33 amends an ordinance pursuant to section 284, the department shall implement and
34 enforce all provisions of Title 22, chapter 562-A and the rules adopted thereunder that are
35 necessary to ensure that the requirements of the State's meat and poultry products
36 inspection and licensing program are at least equal to the applicable requirements
37 specified under applicable federal acts, as defined by the United States Department of
38 Agriculture or other federal agencies, without exception.

