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Date: (Filing No. S-)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to S.P. 283, L.D. 745, Bill, “An Act To Promote Sustainable Food Policies”

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§1-C is enacted to read:

1-C.

Agriculture Maine Farm-to-Plate Not Authorized 7 MRSA §219
Commission

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §219 is enacted to read:

§219. Maine Farm-to-Plate Commission

The Maine Farm-to-Plate Commission established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 1-C and referred to in this section as “the commission,” is established to advise the commissioner on critical issues of agricultural regulation, food safety and local and regional food-related issues. Membership and duties of the commission are set forth in this section.

1. Members. The commission consists of members appointed as follows:

A. One representative of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, who serves as chair of the commission, appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Maine System;

B. One member of a statewide organization dedicated to ensuring food for the State's future, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

C. One member of a statewide organization dedicated to ensuring sustainable agriculture in the State, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

1 D. One member of a statewide organization dedicated to organic farming and
2 gardening, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives; and

4 E. One member of a statewide organization organized to strengthen the State’s
5 farming, fishing and food economy, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate
6 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

7 The commission shall invite as members 2 small-scale farm owners, 2 large-scale farm
8 owners, one small-scale producer of prepared food, one large-scale producer of prepared
9 food, one member representing a local or regional food policy council, one member
10 representing a statewide organization dedicated to encouraging tourism in the State and
11 one member representing a statewide organization dedicated to aquaculture in the State.

12 **2. Terms.** Each member of the commission serves for a term of 3 years. If a
13 member is unable to complete the term, the appointing authority shall appoint a person to
14 serve out the remainder of the unexpired term.

15 **3. Duties.** The commission shall:

16 A. Advise and assist the commissioner in the implementation and oversight of
17 initiatives recommended by the commission;

18 B. By February 1st annually, submit a report concerning the commission’s activities
19 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives, the Clerk of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives
21 and the chairs of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
22 over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters; and

23 C. Periodically review and update the strategic plan for agricultural economic
24 development developed in accordance with subsection 4.

25 **4. Strategic plan.** The commission shall develop a strategic plan for agricultural
26 economic development. In developing the strategic plan, the commission shall:

27 A. Inventory the State's food system infrastructure by gathering existing data, studies
28 and analysis about:

29 (1) The types of foods produced in the State, the number of producers of each
30 type of food, the amount of each type of food produced and the financial viability
31 of each food-producing sector;

32 (2) The types of food processors in the State, how much food produced in the
33 State is purchased by processors within the State and the financial viability of the
34 food processing sector in the State;

35 (3) The current and potential markets in which the State's food producers and
36 processors are able to sell their products;

37 (4) The extent of existing agricultural lands that could be expanded and the
38 resources available to expand food production in the State;

39 (5) The potential for new farmers and food processors to enter the local food
40 economy, the methods for new farmers to acquire land and other farm

1 infrastructure and the availability of and barriers to farm and processing labor;
2 and

3 (6) The potential for entirely new local products and the existence of barriers to
4 farmers and processors entering new markets;

5 B. Identify gaps in the infrastructure and distribution systems and ways to address
6 these gaps; and

7 C. Use resources available from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

8 **5. Implementation.** The commission shall use the information gathered in the
9 course of developing and updating the strategic plan required under subsection 4 to
10 identify methods and the funding necessary to strengthen links among producers,
11 processors and markets, including, but not limited to, actions:

12 A. Supporting of the work of existing farm-to-school programs to increase the
13 purchase of local foods by schools, with a particular emphasis on procurement of
14 nutrient-dense animal foods;

15 B. Collaborating with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and
16 with other relevant departments to increase procurement of local foods by businesses
17 and institutions; and

18 C. Educating lenders regarding the information collected under this section to
19 facilitate availability of agricultural financing.

20 **6. Funds.** The commission may seek and accept gifts, donations and grants from
21 any public or private source to support farm-to-table direct marketing, including farmers'
22 markets and community-supported agriculture operations and to support and encourage
23 so-called regional community food hubs. The commission may use technical assistance,
24 loans, grants or other means approved by the commissioner.

25 **Sec. 2. Development of strategic plan.** The Maine Farm-to-Plate Commission
26 shall develop the strategic plan for agricultural economic development pursuant to Title
27 7, section 219, subsection 4 by November 1, 2014.

28 **Sec. 3. Report.** The Maine Farm-to-Plate Commission shall investigate the
29 feasibility, logistics and propriety of instituting in the State food sovereignty under which
30 local governments may regulate local food systems by local ordinance. The commission
31 shall submit a report of its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture,
32 Conservation and Forestry no later than January 1, 2014.'

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This amendment strikes the committee amendment and replaces it with language that:

35 1. Establishes the Maine Farm-to-Plate Commission to collaborate with and advise
36 the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on critical issues of
37 agricultural regulation, food safety and local and regional food-related issues;

38 2. Directs the commission to develop a strategic plan for agricultural economic
39 development;

