



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 124

H.P. 92

House of Representatives, January 17, 2017

An Act To Make Changes to the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREA of Fort Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: JOHANSEN of Monticello, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, MARTIN of Sinclair,
McCREIGHT of Harpswell, RYKERSON of Kittery, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, STEWART of
Presque Isle, Senator: BELLOWS of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §974-A, sub-§1, ¶¶A and B**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 319,
3 §4, are amended to read:

4 A. No state loan for any project under this article, the total cost of which exceeds
5 ~~\$50,000~~ \$150,000, may exceed 45% of the project cost and no state loan may be
6 provided for such a project unless the applicant demonstrates a commitment of
7 private funds of at least 10% of the total cost of the project, except that, in order to
8 encourage the undertaking of cooperative projects by 2 or more farmers, no state loan
9 for such a project may exceed 50% of the total cost of the project and no state loan
10 may be provided unless the cooperating farmers as a group demonstrate a
11 commitment of private funds of at least 5% of the total cost of the project.

12 B. No state loan for any project under this article, the total cost of which is ~~\$50,000~~
13 \$150,000 or less, may exceed 55% of the total cost of the project.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill increases the total amounts the State may loan from the Potato Marketing
16 Improvement Fund from 45% of project cost to 55% of project cost for projects that cost
17 more than \$50,000 but less than \$150,000. Loans for projects of \$50,000 and under
18 remain unchanged at 55% and loans for projects that exceed \$150,000 remain unchanged
19 at 45%.