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No. 658

H.P. 450

House of Representatives, February 26, 2013

An Act To Change the Grade Standards of the Maine Maple Syrup Industry

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BLACK of Wilton.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, DAVIS of Sangerville, GIFFORD of Lincoln, JACKSON of Oxford, McCABE of Skowhegan, NOON of Sanford, PETERSON of Rumford, TIMBERLAKE of Turner.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §892-A, sub-§1, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 24, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 D. "Maple syrup," which may also be spelled "maple sirop" or "maple sirup,"
5 means the liquid derived by concentration and heat treatment of the sap of maple
6 trees, (*Acer*) or by the solution in water of maple sugar or maple concentrate made
7 from such sap. The solids content of maple syrup may not be less than 66% by
8 weight or more than ~~69%~~ 68.9% by weight, as measured in Brix units at a
9 temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

10 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §892-A, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 326, §2, is amended
11 to read:

12 **2. Maple syrup grades.** The following grades are established as the official maple
13 syrup grade standards for the State.

14 ~~A. "Grade A Light Amber" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material other~~
15 ~~than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in sanitary condition; has a color no darker than~~
16 ~~the federal Department of Agriculture's visual color standard light amber or has a~~
17 ~~color for light transmittance not less than 75.0%Tc; has a delicately sweet, original~~
18 ~~maple flavor; and has a density of at least the equivalent of 66.0° Brix at 60°~~
19 ~~Fahrenheit Modulus 145. Grade A Light Amber maple syrup must be free of sugar~~
20 ~~crystals and may not be damaged in any way.~~

21 ~~B. "Grade A Medium Amber" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material~~
22 ~~other than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in sanitary condition; has a color no darker~~
23 ~~than the federal Department of Agriculture's visual color standard medium amber or~~
24 ~~has a color for light transmittance between the range of 74.9%Tc to 60.5%Tc; and~~
25 ~~may have a flavor that is more pronounced than that of Grade A Light Amber, but~~
26 ~~that is not strong or unpleasant. Grade A Medium Amber must meet the density~~
27 ~~requirement of Grade A Light Amber. Grade A Medium Amber maple syrup must be~~
28 ~~free of sugar crystals and may not be damaged in any way.~~

29 ~~C. "Grade A Dark Amber" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material other~~
30 ~~than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in sanitary condition; has a color no darker than~~
31 ~~the federal Department of Agriculture's visual color standard dark amber or has a~~
32 ~~color for light transmittance between the range of 60.4%Tc to 44.0%Tc; and may~~
33 ~~have a flavor that is stronger than that of Grade A Medium Amber, but that is not~~
34 ~~sharp, bitter, buddy or off flavor. Grade A Dark Amber must meet the density~~
35 ~~requirement of Grade A Light Amber. Grade A Dark Amber maple syrup must be~~
36 ~~free of sugar crystals and may not be damaged in any way.~~

37 ~~D. "Grade A Extra Dark Amber" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material~~
38 ~~other than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in sanitary condition; has a color for light~~
39 ~~transmittance between the range of 43.9%Tc to 27.0%Tc; and may have a flavor~~
40 ~~stronger than Grade A Dark Amber. Grade A Extra Dark Amber must meet the~~
41 ~~density requirements of Grade A Light Amber. Grade A Extra Dark Amber maple~~
42 ~~syrup must be free of sugar crystals and may not be damaged in any way.~~

1 ~~E. "Commercial Grade" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material other~~
2 ~~than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in a sanitary condition; has a color for light~~
3 ~~transmittance less than 27.0%Tc; and may have a strong flavor. Commercial Grade~~
4 ~~maple syrup must be free of sugar crystals and may not be damaged in any way.~~
5 ~~Commercial Grade maple syrup may not be placed in packaged maple syrup~~
6 ~~containers and may not be sold, offered for sale or exposed for sale as packaged~~
7 ~~maple syrup.~~

8 ~~F. "Substandard" means bulk maple syrup that fails to meet the requirements of any~~
9 ~~other grade. Such syrup may not be placed in packaged maple syrup containers and~~
10 ~~may not be sold, offered for sale or exposed for sale as packaged maple syrup.~~

11 G. "Grade A Golden" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material other than
12 pure, clear liquid maple syrup in sanitary condition; has a color for light
13 transmittance of not less than 75%Tc; has a delicate taste; and has a light to more
14 pronounced golden color. Grade A Golden maple syrup must be free of sugar
15 crystals and may not be damaged in any way.

16 H. "Grade A Amber" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material other than
17 pure, clear liquid maple syrup in sanitary condition; has a color for light
18 transmittance of less than 75%Tc but not less than 50%Tc; has a rich or full-bodied
19 taste; and has a light amber color. Grade A Amber maple syrup must be free of sugar
20 crystals and may not be damaged in any way.

21 I. "Grade A Dark" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material other than
22 pure, clear liquid maple syrup in sanitary condition; has a color for light
23 transmittance of less than 50%Tc but not less than 25%Tc; has a more robust or
24 stronger taste than maple syrup in lighter color classes; and has a dark color. Grade A
25 Dark maple syrup must be free of sugar crystals and may not be damaged in any way.

26 J. "Grade A Very Dark" means pure maple syrup that is free of any material other
27 than pure, clear liquid maple syrup in sanitary condition; has a color for light
28 transmittance of less than 25%Tc; has a very strong taste; and has a very dark color.
29 Grade A Very Dark maple syrup must be free of sugar crystals and may not be
30 damaged in any way.

31 K. "Processing Grade" means any maple syrup that does not qualify for Grade A
32 labeling, including off-flavored maple syrup. Processing Grade maple syrup may not
33 be sold in retail markets and must be packed in 5-gallon or larger containers.

34 **Sec. 3. Contingent effective date.** This Act takes effect only if:

35 1. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry receives written
36 notification from the United States Department of Agriculture that the department has
37 adopted the international grading system for maple syrup set out in this Act;

38 2. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry receives written
39 notification from the International Maple Syrup Institute that the federal government of
40 Canada has adopted the international grading system for maple syrup set out in this Act
41 and the institute provides to the commissioner official documents from the Canadian
42 federal government verifying this action; and

1 3. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry notifies the
2 Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives
3 and the Revisor of Statutes that written notice of the adoption of the international grading
4 system for maple syrup set out in this Act has been received from both the United States
5 Department of Agriculture and the International Maple Syrup Institute.

6

SUMMARY

7 This bill replaces the existing maple syrup grading system for the State with a new
8 grading system that has been proposed by the International Maple Syrup Institute. It
9 proposes a uniform grade of maple syrup: Grade A for maple syrup sold at retail. The
10 bill takes effect only upon adoption of the new grading system by the United States
11 Department of Agriculture and the Canadian federal government and notice of those
12 actions being provided by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to
13 the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of
14 Representatives and the Revisor of Statutes.