



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 712

H.P. 488

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

An Act To Increase Organic Waste Recycling in the State

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HARLOW of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, CHIPMAN of Portland, DUCHESNE of Hudson,
WHITE of Washburn.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1303-C, sub-§19-D** is enacted to read:

3 **19-D. Organic waste.** "Organic waste" means solid waste that is of biological origin
4 and is biodegradable, including, but not limited to, agricultural waste, animal and human
5 waste and food waste. "Organic waste" does not include hazardous waste, biomedical
6 waste or septage.

7 **Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §2133-A** is enacted to read:

8 **§2133-A. Organic waste recycling**

9 The department shall track state, regional, municipal and local organic waste
10 recycling efforts and, as resources allow, may develop, implement and administer
11 programs to encourage or support organic waste recycling in the State. The department
12 shall, by January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, submit a report to the joint standing
13 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental and natural
14 resources matters detailing its findings and any recommendations related to organic waste
15 recycling, including any proposed legislation to implement its recommendations. After
16 receiving the report, the committee may report out a bill relating to organic waste
17 recycling.

18 **Sec. 3. Department of Environmental Protection; organic waste recycling**
19 **pilot program.** The Department of Environmental Protection shall develop, implement
20 and administer an organic waste recycling pilot program as described in this section.

21 1. The department shall invite municipalities to participate in the pilot program and
22 shall select as participants at least one municipality from each of the 3 following groups
23 of counties:

24 A. Androscoggin, Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and York;

25 B. Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford and Waldo; and

26 C. Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington.

27 2. The department shall invite the Legislative Council to participate in the pilot
28 program with respect to the State House facilities. The department shall invite the
29 Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to
30 participate in the pilot program with respect to the Cross State Office Building facilities.

31 3. The department shall provide technical assistance, and may provide financial
32 assistance, to each participating entity to develop and implement an organic waste
33 recycling program. Each participating entity shall collect data on and document the
34 amount of organic waste diverted from the waste stream by the program, the related cost
35 savings realized by the participating entity and any problems encountered in
36 implementing the program. Each participating entity shall compile this information into a

1 report and transmit the report to the department on or before a date determined by the
2 department.

3 4. The department shall analyze the reports submitted by the participating entities
4 and, by January 15, 2017, shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the
5 Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental and natural resources matters detailing
6 the data collected by each participating entity and any additional findings and shall
7 include any recommendations for legislation to implement permanent organic waste
8 recycling programs at the state, regional, municipal or local level or to otherwise increase
9 the rate of organic waste recycling in the State.

10

SUMMARY

11 This bill enacts a statutory provision directing the Department of Environmental
12 Protection to track state, regional, municipal and local organic waste recycling efforts
13 and, as resources allow, to develop, implement and administer programs to encourage or
14 support organic waste recycling in the State. The department is directed to submit by
15 January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, a report to the joint standing committee of the
16 Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental and natural resources matters detailing
17 its findings and any recommendations related to organic waste recycling, including any
18 proposed legislation to implement its recommendations. After receiving the report, the
19 committee may report out a bill relating to organic waste recycling. The bill also directs
20 the department to develop, implement and administer an organic waste recycling pilot
21 program. For the pilot program, the department is required to invite as participants at
22 least 3 municipalities and the Legislative Council and the Department of Administrative
23 and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services. The department is directed to
24 provide technical assistance and may provide financial assistance to each participating
25 entity in developing and implementing an organic waste recycling program. Each
26 participating entity must collect data on and document the amount of organic waste
27 diverted from the waste stream by the program, the related cost savings realized by the
28 participating entity and any problems encountered in implementing the program, and
29 must compile this information into a report for the department. The department is
30 directed to analyze the reports submitted by the participating entities and, by January 15,
31 2017, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
32 jurisdiction over environmental and natural resources matters detailing the findings of the
33 program and including any recommendations for legislation. This bill also adopts a
34 definition for the term "organic waste."