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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
125TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 91, L.D. 109, “Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study the Promotion and Expansion of the Maine Maple Sugar Industry”

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, To Study the Promotion and Expansion of the Maine Maple Sugar Industry'**

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

**Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** strengthening the branding of Maine maple sugar products has the potential to create value-added jobs in the natural resources sector and expand export markets for Maine maple sugar products; and

**Whereas,** convening a task force of maple sugar producers and other stakeholders is a first step in advancing this goal; and

**Whereas,** the end of the maple sugar production season is an optimal time to bring stakeholders together; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

**Sec. 1. Task force. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," shall convene a task force to study the promotion and expansion of the Maine maple sugar industry. The commissioner shall invite representatives from each of the following to participate in the task force:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

- 1 1. A statewide association of producers of Maine maple sugar products;
- 2 2. A regional association of producers of maple sugar products in southern Maine;
- 3 3. An association of producers of maple sugar products in Somerset County;
- 4 4. A producer of maple sugar products in Aroostook County;
- 5 5. A producer of maple sugar products with more than 5,000 taps;
- 6 6. A producer of maple sugar products with 1,000 or fewer taps;
- 7 7. A statewide organization of small woodlot owners;
- 8 8. A statewide organization representing the forest products industry;
- 9 9. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension; and
- 10 10. A statewide farming association with a committee actively involved with maple
- 11 sugar production; and be it further

12 **Sec. 2. Chair; convening of initial meeting. Resolved:** That the  
13 commissioner shall designate a person to serve as chair of the task force and shall  
14 convene the initial meeting no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
15 resolve; and be it further

16 **Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall examine with reference to the  
17 Maine maple sugar industry:

- 18 1. The potential for expanding both the harvesting and processing of maple sap for
- 19 sugar;
- 20 2. Obstacles to expanded production;
- 21 3. Opportunities for enhancing a Maine maple brand;
- 22 4. The potential for expanding value-added processing and the economic impact of
- 23 expansion;
- 24 5. The potential for expanding export marketing and the economic impact of
- 25 expansion;
- 26 6. Structures or network associations that could increase sustainable production;
- 27 7. Potential competitive or collaborative opportunities with North America's largest
- 28 producer, Quebec, Canada; and
- 29 8. Investments or actions that could be taken by the State that would produce a
- 30 tangible economic return.

31 In conducting its examination, the task force shall review models that have been  
32 successfully employed to promote other Maine food product industries, including marine  
33 products and agricultural products such as potatoes and blueberries; and be it further

34 **Sec. 4. Meetings. Resolved:** That the chair, in consultation with the  
35 commissioner, shall schedule meetings of the task force as necessary to complete the task  
36 force's assigned duties. The commissioner shall notify members of the Joint Standing

1 Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and other Legislators with a known  
2 interest in the maple sugar industry of all meetings of the task force; and be it further

3 **Sec. 5. Staffing and funding. Resolved:** That the Department of Agriculture,  
4 Food and Rural Resources shall provide staff support to the task force from existing  
5 resources. The commissioner may use contributions of money, services and supplies  
6 accepted under existing authority to support the work of the task force; and be it further

7 **Sec. 6. Agency cooperation. Resolved:** That the commissioner, the  
8 Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of Economic and Community  
9 Development and the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine shall  
10 each designate a representative from their respective agencies to serve as a resource to the  
11 task force, respond to information requests and attend task force meetings upon request;  
12 and be it further

13 **Sec. 7. Final report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 7, 2011, the  
14 commissioner shall submit a report that includes the findings and recommendations of the  
15 task force, including suggested legislation to implement the recommendations, for  
16 presentation to Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; and  
17 be it further

18 **Sec. 8. Authority to submit legislation. Resolved:** That the Joint Standing  
19 Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may submit a bill pertaining to the  
20 Maine maple sugar industry to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

21 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
22 legislation takes effect when approved.'

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This amendment replaces the resolve. It replaces the proposal for a legislative study  
25 with a task force convened by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural  
26 Resources. It directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to  
27 provide staff support to the task force.

28 It directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to submit a  
29 final report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
30 no later than December 7, 2011. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on  
31 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to submit legislation to the Second Regular  
32 Session of the 125th Legislature.