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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

125TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 653, L.D. 1869, Bill, “An Act To Establish the Dairy Improvement Fund”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2910-B is enacted to read:

§2910-B. Dairy Improvement Fund

The commissioner shall administer the Dairy Improvement Fund established under Title 10, section 1023-P in accordance with this section and Title 10, section 1023-P. All money received by the fund from any source, including revenue distributed under Title 8, section 1036, subsection 2-A, paragraph M, must be deposited with the Finance Authority of Maine and credited to the fund. Money credited to the fund must be used to provide loans to assist dairy farmers in making capital improvements to maintain and enhance the viability of their farms and to pay the administrative costs of processing loan applications and servicing and administering the fund and loans made from the fund. Repayment of these loans and interest on the loans must be credited to the fund to be available for the same purposes.

The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3153-D, as amended by PL 2009, c. 467, §5, is further amended to read:

§3153-D. Transfer of revenues

On or before the 18th day of each month, the administrator of the Maine Milk Pool shall ~~certify the amounts~~ subtract the amount in the Maine Milk Pool, Other Special Revenue Funds account that is available for distribution for dairy stabilization support from the total amount to be distributed for the previous month pursuant to section 3153-B and certify this amount to the State Controller, who shall transfer the certified monthly

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1 amount when certified from General Fund undedicated revenue to the Maine Milk Pool,
2 Other Special Revenue Funds account.

3 **Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2-A, ¶¶J and K**, as enacted by IB 2009, c. 2, §45,
4 are amended to read:

5 J. One percent of the net slot machine income must be forwarded directly to the
6 county in which the casino is located to pay for mitigation of costs resulting from
7 gaming operations; ~~and~~

8 K. One percent of the net slot machine income must be forwarded by the board to the
9 Treasurer of State, who shall credit the money to the Maine Milk Pool, Other Special
10 Revenue Funds account within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural
11 Resources to help fund dairy farm stabilization pursuant to Title 7, ~~section~~ sections
12 3153-B and 3153-D. This paragraph is repealed July 1, 2013;

13 **Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2-A, ¶¶L and M** are enacted to read:

14 L. Beginning July 1, 2013, 1/2 of 1% of the net slot machine income must be
15 forwarded by the board to the Treasurer of State, who shall credit the money to the
16 Maine Milk Pool, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of
17 Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to help fund dairy farm stabilization pursuant
18 to Title 7, sections 3153-B and 3153-D; and

19 M. Beginning July 1, 2013, 1/2 of 1% of the net slot machine income must be
20 forwarded by the board to the Treasurer of State, who shall credit the money to the
21 Dairy Improvement Fund established under Title 10, section 1023-P.

22 **Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §1023-P** is enacted to read:

23 **§1023-P. Dairy Improvement Fund**

24 The Dairy Improvement Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is created.
25 The fund must be deposited with and maintained by the authority. The Commissioner of
26 Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall administer the fund in accordance with Title
27 7, section 2910-B and this section. All money received by the authority in accordance
28 with Title 7, section 2910-B and Title 8, section 1036, subsection 2-A, paragraph M must
29 be credited to the fund. Money credited to the fund must be used to provide loans to
30 assist dairy farmers in making capital improvements to maintain and enhance the viability
31 of their farms and to pay the administrative costs of processing loan applications and
32 servicing and administering the fund and loans made from the fund.

33 Repayment of loans and interest on these loans must be credited to the fund and may
34 be used for the purposes stated in this section and Title 7, section 2910-B.

35 The authority may adopt rules necessary to implement this section. Rules adopted
36 pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
37 subchapter 2-A.'

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This amendment clarifies the process for 1% of the net slot machine revenues
40 distributed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 1036, subsection 2-A,

1 paragraph K to be credited to support payments under the dairy stabilization program.
2 Effective July 1, 2013, the 1% credited for dairy stabilization payments will be reduced to
3 1/2 of 1%, with the other 1/2 of 1% being credited to the Dairy Improvement Fund
4 established in the bill. It provides for the Dairy Improvement Fund to be deposited with
5 and maintained by the Finance Authority of Maine. The fund provides loans to dairy
6 farmers for capital improvements.