

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 235 - L.D. 384

**An Act to Provide Emergency Aid to Dairy Farmers Affected by the Crisis in
Production Costs**

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

Sec. 1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before July 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time pandemic volatility payments to Maine milk producers who produced milk and reported production information to the Maine Milk Commission in calendar year 2022 and are currently participating in the dairy stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3153-B, also known as the Tier Program. In calculating the payment, the administrator of the Maine Milk Pool shall attempt to achieve, insofar as practical, a proportional distribution of the entire transferred amount to farmers by basing the payments on a per hundredweight production basis and limiting payments to a production limit of 5,000,000 pounds per farm. The administrator of the Maine Milk Pool may use existing distribution methods within the Maine Milk Pool program to expedite the distribution of payments.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF
Milk Commission 0188**

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to allow distribution of pandemic volatility payments to Maine dairy farmers who meet specific milk production criteria.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$500,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500,000	\$0