

**Amendment to LD 299,
An Act to Support Investment in Agriculture**
Proposed by Representative Pluecker
February 17, 2026

Amend the bill by striking out the title and replacing it with the following:

An Act to Build a Viable Future for Maine Agriculture

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause the following:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §320-A, sub-§1, ¶C is amended to read:

C. "Producer" means a person in the State that grows, manufactures, harvests or otherwise creates agricultural, aquacultural, food or forest products and value-added products, including a person engaged in farming, sea farming, harvesting or other agricultural and forestry manufacturing activities.

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §4641-B, sub-§4-B, ¶G is enacted to read:

G. In fiscal year 2026-27 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Treasurer of State shall credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A, subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay revenues available under this subparagraph to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund established in Title 7, section 320-B until the total amount paid for the fiscal year equals \$5,000,000. The department shall use the funds under this subparagraph to provide grants and low-interest revolving loans to a producer as defined in Title 7, section 320-A, subsection 1, paragraph C who has demonstrated gross business income of at least \$10,000, as evidenced by state or federal tax filings or other documentation acceptable to the administering agency, in any one of the four taxable years immediately preceding the date of the application for a grant or loan under this subparagraph.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which replaces the concept draft, proposes to amend the definition of "producer" in the provisions of law relating to the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund to include a person who grows, manufactures, harvests or otherwise creates aquacultural products and a person who is engaged in sea farming.

The amendment transfers a portion of the revenue from the real estate transfer tax to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The department is directed to deposit funds in the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund to provide grants and low-interest revolving loans to producers who have demonstrated gross business income of at least \$10,000, as evidenced by state or federal tax filings or other documentation acceptable to the administering agency, in any one of the four taxable years immediately preceding the date of the application for a grant or loan.