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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
129TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1114, L.D. 1531, Bill, “An Act To Establish the Maine Food System Investment Program To Create Quality Jobs and Support Farms, Fisheries and Food-related Businesses”

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

**'An Act Relating to Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forestry Infrastructure Investment To Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food and Forestry Economy'**

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

'Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 10-C is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 10-C**

**MAINE'S AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEM AND FORESTRY  
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

**§320-A. Maine's agriculture, food system and forestry infrastructure investment**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Producer" means a person in the State who grows, manufactures, harvests or otherwise creates food, fiber or forest products and value-added products, including a person engaged in farming, fishing, logging, harvesting or other agricultural and forestry-related activities.

**2. Goals; duties.** The commissioner shall:

A. Strengthen the State's agriculture, food and forestry economy with a priority of making resulting efforts more inclusive of and increasing investments in historically marginalized, underrepresented and underserved communities; and

B. Improve investments in agriculture, food and forestry in the State to increase access to new markets and opportunities for producers, processors, small businesses

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 and consumers in the State in the producing, processing, packaging, distribution,  
2 marketing, sale and consumption of food, fiber or forest products and value-added  
3 products.

4 **3. Powers.** In carrying out the purposes of this chapter, the commissioner may:

5 A. Hire or assign staff or contractors;

6 B. Seek and accept funds from public and private sources;

7 C. Use technical assistance, loans, grants or other means or resources; and

8 D. Administer funds, grants or programs.

9 **Sec. 2. Maine agriculture, food system and forestry infrastructure**  
10 **investment; assessment.** The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and  
11 Forestry shall undertake a Maine agriculture, food system and forestry infrastructure  
12 investment assessment either directly or with a suitable contractor. The purpose of the  
13 assessment is to support the duties of the commissioner under the Maine Revised  
14 Statutes, Title 7, chapter 10-C. The commissioner shall conduct a comprehensive review  
15 of current state and external partners' efforts to achieve the duties under Title 7, chapter  
16 10-C.

17 **1. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following  
18 meanings.

19 A. "Food system" means all processes, infrastructure and persons involved in feeding  
20 a population, including growing, harvesting, collecting, processing, packaging,  
21 transporting, marketing, selling, consuming and disposing of food and food-related  
22 items in the State.

23 B. "Supply chain" means the chain of distribution by which agricultural, food and  
24 forest products in the State are moved from the producer to the consumer and may  
25 include intermediate entities such as processors, packagers, warehouse operators,  
26 distributors, wholesalers and retailers.

27 C. "Value chain coordination" means an approach to product development that  
28 connects the existing elements within the supply chain and identifies key gaps in the  
29 supply chain in existing infrastructure or services and opportunities for effective  
30 investment.

31 **2. Assessment outcomes.** The commissioner may:

32 A. Recommend necessary improvements or changes to current state grant and loan  
33 programs that support the agriculture, food and forestry sectors of the State, including  
34 any recommendations for the creation of new financing programs based on other  
35 successful state models;

36 B. Review and organize existing recommendations from trade groups and others that  
37 pertain to Maine's agriculture, food and forestry economy infrastructure, including  
38 but not limited to processing, transportation, storage and warehousing, distribution  
39 and wholesale and retail sales; and

40 C. Identify gaps, undertake additional data collection and outline short-term and  
41 long-term actions that can be taken by the Legislature, the Department of Agriculture,

1 Conservation and Forestry, other state government agencies or external partners to  
2 productively meet and resolve infrastructure needs.

3 **3. Assessment duties.** In conducting the assessment, the commissioner shall:

4 A. Undertake strategic analysis to inform short-term and long-term benchmarks to  
5 carry out the duties under Title 7, chapter 10-C and achieve the outcomes under this  
6 section as they pertain to agriculture, food system and forestry infrastructure needs,  
7 including:

8 (1) Identifying the highest priority areas for policy interventions, including  
9 legislation, capital investments, technical assistance and value chain coordination  
10 in the agriculture, food and forestry-related systems;

11 (2) Recommending how State Government may collaborate with other entities to  
12 minimize duplication in efforts and programs and bridge gaps in technical  
13 assistance, services, education, research and development; and

14 (3) Recommending initiatives that improve regulation, marketing, transportation  
15 or distribution systems that enhance market opportunities for Maine agriculture,  
16 food and forestry businesses; and

17 B. Consult and collaborate with community development corporations and financial  
18 institutions in the development of agriculture, food system and forestry investment  
19 infrastructure to support the outcomes in this section.

20 **Sec. 3. Assessment report.** The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and  
21 Forestry shall submit an interim report relating to the assessment under section 2, no later  
22 than November 30, 2020, and a final report, no later than September 1, 2021, with  
23 findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing  
24 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and  
25 forestry matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
26 agriculture, conservation and forestry matters may submit a bill during the Second  
27 Regular Session of the 130th Legislature relating to the subject matter of the report.

28 1. At a minimum, the report must:

29 A. Include an update on any measurable outcomes or actions deriving from the  
30 assessment and an accounting of any funds expended by the commissioner due to the  
31 assessment; and

32 B. Include a summary of the commissioner's efforts, recommendations and  
33 developments relating to the assessment toward the statutory duties under the Maine  
34 Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 10-C and expenditures for the previous year and  
35 any planned focus or activities for the next year or following years.'

36 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
37 section number to read consecutively.

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This amendment, which strikes and replaces the bill, requires the Commissioner of  
40 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to carry out the following duties:

