

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the resolve in section 1 in the last line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "2-A." and inserting the following: '2-A; and be it further'

Amend the resolve by inserting after section 1 the following:

‘Sec. 2 Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to examine operations requiring a compost management plan. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, referred to in this section as "the department," shall review agricultural composting operations that are exempt from licensing as a solid waste facility under the Department of Environmental Protection Rules, Chapter 410, Section 1, Paragraph B, Subparagraphs (4), (5), (6) and (7).

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January 3, 2012 with recommendations for statutory changes needed to clarify or enhance the department's oversight of agricultural composting operations. For the purposes of this section, "agricultural composting operations" means composting that takes place on farms and uses only animal manure, animal carcasses and offal, fish waste, leaves, wood chips, animal bedding and other vegetative waste and produce and other vegetable and food waste.

The Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may report out a bill during the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature pertaining to oversight of agricultural composting operations.’

SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to review exemptions from licensing under the Department of Environmental Protection that are contingent on a composting facility's operating in accordance with a compost management plan approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources is directed to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January 3, 2012 with recommendations for any statutory changes needed to clarify or enhance the department's oversight of agricultural composting operations. It authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to report out a bill in the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.