

## 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

**Legislative Document** 

No. 558

H.P. 403

House of Representatives, February 24, 2021

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry To Study Alternative Cropping Systems for Farmers Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 22, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative PLUECKER of Warren. Cosponsored by Senator MAXMIN of Lincoln and

Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LANDRY of Farmington, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, O'NEIL of Saco, OSHER of Orono, WHITE of Waterville, Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

Sec. 1. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; alternative **cropping systems.** Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the University of Maine, shall study alternative cropping systems that are more cost-effective than soil and water remediation systems for farmers whose land has been contaminated by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and whose business development has been limited. The study must include an assessment of how contaminated land can be used for food and energy production in ways that create products that are safe and uncontaminated. As part of its study, the department may consider studying the production of tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and cucumbers in greenhouses, how pH and salinity of irrigation water affect perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances uptake in plants, how meat production using contaminated hay but uncontaminated water affects the food product and dual-use solar photovoltaic panel installation with production of meat and poultry from pastured animals. The department shall submit a report of the study's findings, which must include proposals for funding opportunities to help farmers develop alternative business opportunities, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by February 1, 2022.

17 SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the University of Maine, to study alternative cropping systems that are more cost-effective than soil and water remediation systems for farmers whose land has been contaminated by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and whose business development has been limited.