



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 942

H.P. 607

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

An Act to Safeguard Sustainable Food Sources Provided by Certain Maine Farmers

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 5, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and
Representatives: GUERRETTE of Caribou, MINGO of Calais, ROBERTS of South Berwick,
Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the Legislature finds that it is desirable to foster an equitable food and
4 agriculture economy that protects and improves the health, nutrition and quality of life of
5 all Maine residents; and

6 **Whereas,** the federal Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, also known as the 2018
7 Farm Bill, is an omnibus multiyear law that governs an array of food and agricultural
8 programs and provides much-needed funding to states; and

9 **Whereas,** the federal American Relief Act, 2025 provided an extension of the 2018
10 Farm Bill, which gives the United States Congress until September 30, 2025 to pass a new
11 farm bill; and

12 **Whereas,** this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period
13 so this legislation is in effect before a new farm bill is enacted; and

14 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
15 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
16 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
17 therefore,

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

19 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §2, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

20 **7. Federal grants designated for livestock farmers.** Notwithstanding any provision
21 of law to the contrary, ensure that any federal grant for which livestock farmers may be
22 eligible gives priority to small and midsize farms as defined by the commissioner by rule.

23 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §2, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

24 **8. State grants.** Issue clear state grant application requirements and, in collaboration
25 with stakeholders, create a process for evaluating state grants under this Title. Stakeholders
26 must include, but are not limited to, owners of small and midsize livestock and nonlivestock
27 farms and processors as defined by the commissioner by rule.

28 **Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §2, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

29 **9. Shared-use kitchens.** Develop, establish and prioritize shared-use kitchen
30 programming to enable midsize farms as defined by the commissioner by rule to:

31 A. Build shared-use kitchen infrastructure; and

32 B. Increase processing capability for agricultural products as defined in section 152,
33 subsection 2 for personal use and local community demand.

34 **Sec. 4. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt**
35 **rules.** By June 30, 2025, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall
36 adopt rules to define "small and midsize farms" and "small and midsize livestock and
37 nonlivestock farms and processors"; create a process for evaluating state grants under the
38 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 2, subsection 8; and develop, establish and
39 prioritize shared-use kitchen programming pursuant to Title 7, section 2, subsection 9.

Sec. 5. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; report. By August 15, 2025, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on the rule-making process under section 4 and how the department and the rules will assist and prioritize small and midsize farms.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill adds the following to the duties of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

1. Ensure that federal grants designated for livestock farmers give priority to small and midsize farms;
2. Issue clear state grant application requirements and, in collaboration with stakeholders, create a process for evaluating state grants; and
3. Develop, establish and prioritize shared-use kitchen programming to enable midsize farms to build shared-use kitchen infrastructure and increase processing capability for agricultural products for personal use and local community demand.