



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 920

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H.P. 675

House of Representatives, February 21, 2019

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### **An Act To Establish the Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing**

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Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.  
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and  
Representatives: COREY of Windham, DUNPHY of Old Town, HICKMAN of Winthrop,  
MAXMIN of Nobleboro, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, O'NEIL of Saco, ROBERTS-LOVELL  
of South Berwick, Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §219-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§219-A. Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing**

4 **1. Fund established.** The Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing,  
5 referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department to provide  
6 incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase  
7 of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of  
8 programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and nutrition  
9 assistance programs. The fund consists of money received as appropriations, allocations  
10 and contributions from private and public sources. The fund, to be accounted within the  
11 department, must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts.  
12 Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of  
13 the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do  
14 not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. For purposes of this section,  
15 "local" means within the State.

16 **2. Fund recipients.** An organization based in the State that supports local food  
17 producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and  
18 nutrition assistance may receive proceeds from the fund upon application with the  
19 department. The department shall prioritize an applicant that has a demonstrated history  
20 of incentivizing the use of federal food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase  
21 locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrates the ability to leverage the  
22 proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources.  
23 The department shall periodically post a request for applications for eligible organizations  
24 to apply for fund proceeds.

25 **3. Report; audit.** The department shall require a periodic report from a recipient  
26 under subsection 2 detailing the use of fund proceeds and the federal food and nutrition  
27 assistance programs involved and to ensure that the funds are expended appropriately  
28 pursuant to this section. The department may audit a recipient to carry out the purposes  
29 of this subsection.

30 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
31 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of the fund, including application  
32 criteria and procedures for recipients, disbursement of funds to recipients and for  
33 outreach and administration purposes and reporting and audit procedures for recipients.

34 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
35 allocations are made.

36 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

37 **Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing**

38 Initiative: Provides funding to capitalize the Fund To Support Local Fruits and  
39 Vegetables Purchasing for use in conjunction with federal food and nutrition assistance  
40 programs to incentivize the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

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<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>

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### **SUMMARY**

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This bill establishes the Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to provide incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and nutrition assistance programs. Fund recipients must be state-based organizations that support local food producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and nutrition assistance, with priority to organizations that have a demonstrated history of incentivizing the use of federal food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrate the ability to leverage the proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources. The bill provides reporting and audit requirements for recipients to ensure proper use of the funds and appropriates funds to capitalize the fund.