



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 287

S.P. 120

In Senate, February 7, 2013

An Act To Improve Funding of Agricultural Development Projects

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BOYLE of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative CRAY of Palmyra and
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, DILL of Old Town, GIFFORD of Lincoln, NOON of
Sanford, SAUCIER of Presque Isle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §306-A, sub-§3, ¶¶A and B**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 72, §5,
3 are amended to read:

4 A. Applications may be submitted by individuals, firms or organizations in response
5 to a request for proposals for competitive grants. Individuals, firms or organizations
6 may also be contracted with directly for a special project under section 307;

7 B. ~~At least 25%~~ A percentage of the total cost of any project must be funded by the
8 applicant or applicants and ~~at least 10%~~ a percentage of the total cost must be funded
9 from nonpublic sources. These percentages must be established by rule. A single
10 grant may not exceed ~~20%~~ 50% of the total funds available to be granted in a given
11 year; ~~however, in no case may a single grant exceed \$30,000;~~

12 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §306-A, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 72, §5, is amended to
13 read:

14 **4. Advisory committee.** The commissioner shall establish the Agricultural
15 Development Committee to evaluate market and production development competitive
16 grant applications and review project results.

17 **Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §307**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 72, §6, is further amended to
18 read:

19 **§307. Special projects**

20 The commissioner may contract directly with the University of Maine System or
21 qualified individuals, firms or organizations for market research, for testing new
22 technologies and for research on ~~pressing, short-term~~ technical problems related to the
23 production, marketing, storage and processing of agricultural commodities.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill amends the laws governing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation
26 and Forestry's agricultural development fund to provide more flexibility with respect to
27 grants and contracts and allow the department to directly fund agricultural development
28 projects.