

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 820

S.P. 206

In Senate, March 5, 2021

Resolve, To Convene a Working Group To Develop Plans To Protect Maine's Agricultural Lands When Siting Solar Arrays

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

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin.

1 Sec. 1. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene 2 working group. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall convene a working group of stakeholders to develop plans and consider ways 3 4 to discourage the use of land of higher agricultural value and encourage the use of more marginal agricultural lands when siting a solar array. The department shall submit its report 5 6 and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing 7 Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; the Joint Standing Committee on 8 Energy, Utilities and Technology; and the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and 9 Natural Resources no later than January 14, 2022.

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SUMMARY

11 This resolve directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to 12 convene a working group of stakeholders to develop plans and consider ways to discourage 13 the use of land of higher agricultural value and encourage the use of more marginal agricultural lands when siting a solar array. The department must submit its report and 14 15 recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities 16 17 and Technology; and the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources 18 no later than January 14, 2022.