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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 557, L.D. 901, “Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Support Farm Apprenticeships in Maine”

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Inform the Development of a Farm Apprenticeship Pilot Program'**

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Stakeholder group regarding a farm apprenticeship pilot program.**

**Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall convene a group of stakeholders including, but not limited to, representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; the Department of Labor; the Department of Economic and Community Development; the Department of Education; educational institutions, particularly public and private postsecondary institutions; statewide organizations representing organic farmers and gardeners and conventional farmers; a statewide organization that works to protect farmland and support farmers; and a statewide business association to develop recommendations for a potential farm apprenticeship pilot program. The stakeholder group shall consider existing models for farm apprenticeships and solicit input from interested parties. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may undertake a survey of existing programs within the State and in other states to inform the work of the stakeholder group. The commissioner shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by March 1, 2024. The joint standing committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature relating to the subject matter of the report.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

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

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 **Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

2 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted services to manage a stakeholder group  
3 to develop recommendations for a farm apprenticeship pilot program.

4 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
5 All Other	\$20,000	\$0
6		
7 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

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9 Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
10 section number to read consecutively.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This amendment, which strikes and replaces the resolve, requires the Commissioner of  
13 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a stakeholder group to develop  
14 recommendations for a potential farm apprenticeship pilot program. The amendment  
15 directs the commissioner to report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder  
16 group to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The  
17 joint standing committee has the authority to submit a bill relating to the subject matter of  
18 the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

19 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
20 **(See attached)**