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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1101, L.D. 1598, Bill, “An Act To Allow the Commercial Growth and Sale of Water Spinach in the State”

Amend the bill in section 1 in §2461 by striking out all of the indented paragraph (page 1, lines 6 to 14 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'The department shall provide information about the proper process for obtaining a permit from the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine program to an individual seeking to grow and sell Ipomoea aquatica Forssk., commonly referred to as water spinach. If an application for such a permit is submitted by an individual, the department may not object to the issuance of the permit pursuant to 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 360.304 on the grounds that granting the permit would pose a risk of dissemination of a noxious weed into the State as long as the permittee will follow any federal Plant Protection and Quarantine program containment facility guidelines for noxious weeds and parasitic seed plants and any operational performance standards for the handling and movement of the plants after sale.'

SUMMARY

This amendment clarifies the language of the bill. The bill suggests that the State is required to complete a permit application and approve the application on behalf of an applicant for a federal permit to grow and sell Ipomoea aquatica Forssk., commonly referred to as water spinach, and then approve the application. The amendment clarifies that the State is prohibited from objecting to the issuance of a federal permit as long as federal guidelines and standards for the handling of the plants are followed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT