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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1286, L.D. 1925, “An Act to Improve Access to Grant Funding for the Maine Farms for the Future Program”

Amend the bill in section 1 in §318 in subsection 3 in the 3rd and 4th lines (page 1, lines 20 and 21 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "These services must include:" and inserting the following: '~~These services must include:~~ The services package must include services provided by outside experts, such as the analysis of production practices and markets or the development of financial data. These services may include instruction or classroom training in economics and business planning as available and as required by the department for the owner or operator of the farm business.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §318 in subsection 3 by striking out all of paragraphs A and B (page 1, lines 22 to 25 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

- ~~'A. Outside experts to provide services such as analyzing production practices and markets or developing financial data; and~~
- ~~B. Department approved instruction or classroom training in economics and business planning for the owner or operator of the farm.'~~

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 3 and 4.

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

SUMMARY

Current law provides that once an applicant is selected to participate in the Maine Farms for the Future Program, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to assist the selected farm business in assembling a services package to develop a business plan within 18 months of the selection.

This amendment clarifies that services may include instruction or classroom training in economics and business planning as available and as required by the department for the

1 owner or operator of the farm business. Current law provides that those services are
2 required.

3 The amendment strikes from the bill increases in the maximum allowable amounts for
4 agricultural marketing loans.