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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 487, L.D. 1198, “Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs”

Amend the resolve by inserting before section 1 the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Maine's meat and poultry inspection programs exist to protect the health and welfare of consumers by ensuring that livestock and poultry used in the production of meat and poultry products, respectively, are humanely handled and disease-free and the resulting products are wholesome, not adulterated and correctly labeled and packaged; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period to allow the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to begin its review of Maine's meat and poultry inspection programs as soon as possible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it'

Amend the resolve in section 1 in the first line (page 1, line 1 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "That" the following: ', within existing budgeted resources,'

Amend the resolve in section 1 in the 11th line (page 1, line 11 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "training." the following: 'As part of the review under this section, the department shall conduct a survey of meat and poultry producers and processors to obtain feedback on rules, regulations, policies and practices affecting the regulated community.'

Amend the resolve in section 1 in the last line (page 1, line 14 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "requirements." the following: 'The department shall develop strategies to ensure uniform interpretation of the United States Department of Agriculture's regulations and exemptions.'

1 Amend the resolve in section 2 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 17 in L.D.) by inserting
2 after the following: "1" the following: 'describing strategies, findings and
3 recommendations'

4 Amend the resolve in section 2 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 17 in L.D.) by striking out
5 the following: "recommended state or federal" and inserting the following: 'suggested'

6 Amend the resolve by adding before the summary the following:

7 **'Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
8 takes effect when approved.'

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

11 SUMMARY

12 This amendment clarifies that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and
13 Forestry is required to conduct its review of programs and processes related to meat and
14 poultry inspections within existing budgeted resources. The amendment also specifies that
15 the department, as part of the review, is required to conduct a survey of meat and poultry
16 producers and processors to obtain feedback on rules, regulations, policies and practices
17 affecting the regulated community and to develop strategies to ensure uniform
18 interpretation of the United States Department of Agriculture's regulations and exemptions.
19 The amendment also requires the department's report to include strategies, findings,
20 recommendations and suggested legislation and adds an emergency preamble and
21 emergency clause to the bill.

22 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

23 (See attached)