

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

—
H.P. 1370 - L.D. 2040

Resolve, to Study Food Insecurity Measures in Maine

Sec. 1. Assessment and evaluation of food insecurity measures in State.

Resolved: That, in view of the fact that the United States Department of Agriculture terminated its annual Household Food Security report, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall study opportunities to assess and evaluate food insecurity measures in the State and the State's progress in its strategic plan to end hunger by 2030 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 2, subsection 6. The commissioner shall seek input from the advisory committee established in Title 7, section 2, subsection 6, outside organizations and other state agencies as necessary in conducting the study. The commissioner may contract with external agencies to study feasible methods to measure and track food insecurity in the State over time, if sufficient funding has been provided for this purpose. This study may include reviewing existing measurements of disparities of food insecurity in target populations, including, but not limited to, those defined by age, geography, income, race and veteran status, as defined by federal and state policy. The study may include a gap analysis to identify missing or incomplete data sets. Results of the study must be published and made available on a publicly accessible website.

Sec. 2. Acceptance of funds for study. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may accept funds from any public or private source for the purposes of the study under section 1. Funds must be transferred into a separate, nonlapsing account, administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, for the purposes of this resolve and may not be used for any other purpose.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2027, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters; health and human services matters; and education and cultural affairs. The report must include the following:

1. A summary of issues or challenges encountered in conducting the study under section 1;
2. Data and metrics measuring the outcomes and impacts of the study; and

3. Recommendations regarding further study or courses of action relative to the report findings.

Each joint standing committee receiving a report under this section may submit legislation based on the subject matter of the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.