

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

S.P. 591 - L.D. 1450

An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §60, sub-§3, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 301, §1, is amended to read:

B. Is limited to a term of not less than ~~20~~ 10 years.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §60-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 693, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Program. ~~In~~ The Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program is established in order to protect and support local farms, preserve farmland and reduce the ~~potential tax burdens from new development~~ fiscal burden for participating municipalities that results from new development in rural areas. Under this program, a municipality may enter into farm support arrangements with the owners of qualified farmland.

A. A farm support arrangement must be approved by majority vote of the municipality's legislative body or municipal officers or by a municipal employee appointed by the municipal officers and designated to review and approve farm support arrangements.

B. Unless approved by a 2/3 vote of the municipality's legislative body, the municipality may not enter into farm support arrangements:

- (1) Affecting more than 3% of the total annual valuation of taxable land in the municipality; ~~and~~ or
- (2) In any calendar year, affecting more than 1% of the total annual valuation of taxable land in the municipality.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §60-A, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 301, §1, is amended to read:

4. Rules. The department shall adopt rules governing farm support arrangements. Rules adopted under this subsection are ~~major substantive~~ routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.