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Date: (Filing No. S-)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to H.P. 235, L.D. 384, “An Act Addressing Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in Maine”

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the substitute title and inserting the following:

'Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before July 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time pandemic volatility payments to Maine milk producers who produced milk and reported production information to the Maine Milk Commission in calendar year 2022 and are currently participating in the dairy stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3153-B, also known as the Tier Program. In calculating the payment, the administrator of the Maine Milk Pool shall attempt to achieve, insofar as practical, a proportional distribution of the entire transferred amount to farmers by basing the payments on a per hundredweight production basis and limiting payments to a production limit of 5,000,000 pounds per farm. The administrator of the Maine Milk Pool may use existing distribution methods within the Maine Milk Pool program to expedite the distribution of payments.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to allow distribution of pandemic volatility payments to Maine dairy farmers who meet specific milk production criteria.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$500,000	\$0
	_____	_____

SENATE AMENDMENT

1 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL \$500,000 \$0

2 ''

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

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This amendment removes the provision requiring the transfer of \$5,329,667 from the
7 unappropriated surplus of the General Fund before July 30, 2023 and instead requires the
8 transfer of \$500,000 on or before July 30, 2024 from the unappropriated surplus of the
9 General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk
10 Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time
11 pandemic volatility payments to Maine milk producers who produced milk and reported
12 production information to the Maine Milk Commission in calendar year 2022 and are
13 currently participating in the dairy stabilization program. The amendment also removes the
14 emergency preamble and emergency clause and replaces the appropriations and allocations
15 section.

16 **SPONSORED BY:** _____

17 **(Senator ROTUNDO, M.)**

18 **COUNTY: Androscoggin**