

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 557 - L.D. 901

Resolve, to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Inform the Development of a Farm Apprenticeship Pilot Program

Sec. 1. Stakeholder group regarding a farm apprenticeship pilot program.

Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall convene a group of stakeholders including, but not limited to, representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; the Department of Labor; the Department of Economic and Community Development; the Department of Education; educational institutions, particularly public and private postsecondary institutions; statewide organizations representing organic farmers and gardeners and conventional farmers; a statewide organization that works to protect farmland and support farmers; and a statewide business association to develop recommendations for a potential farm apprenticeship pilot program. The stakeholder group shall consider existing models for farm apprenticeships and solicit input from interested parties. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may undertake a survey of existing programs within the State and in other states to inform the work of the stakeholder group. The commissioner shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters by March 1, 2025. The joint standing committee may submit a bill to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 relating to the subject matter of the report.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted services to manage a stakeholder group to develop recommendations for a farm apprenticeship pilot program.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$20,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$20,000