



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 885

H.P. 641

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

An Act To Promote Bulk Retail Purchasing

Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MORALES of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative: GROHOSKI of Ellsworth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §219-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§219-A. Reusable containers**

4 The department shall ensure that its rules, established in accordance with the
5 commissioner's rule-making authority in section 12, and guidelines neither preclude
6 business owners from allowing nor require business owners to allow consumers to supply
7 their own containers for the bulk purchase of certain food and nonfood items. The
8 department shall provide technical assistance and education to business owners and
9 consumers regarding best practices for the use of reusable containers.

10 **Sec. 2. Review and report.** The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and
11 Forestry shall review its rules and guidelines to ensure they are in compliance with the
12 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 219-A. By February 1, 2022, the department shall
13 provide a report on its progress toward implementation of the requirements of Title 7,
14 section 219-A to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic
15 Advancement and Business.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to ensure
18 that its rules and guidelines neither preclude business owners from allowing nor require
19 business owners to allow consumers to supply their own containers for the bulk purchase
20 of certain food and nonfood items and to provide technical assistance and education
21 regarding best practices. The bill requires the department to report on its progress by
22 February 1, 2022 to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic
23 Advancement and Business.