



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 971

H.P. 726

House of Representatives, February 26, 2019

An Act To Encourage the Purchase and Sale of Locally Grown and Raised Crops and Products

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUNPHY of Old Town.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: HICKMAN of Winthrop, KINNEY of Knox, MAXMIN of Nobleboro,
O'NEIL of Saco, PLUECKER of Warren, Senators: DILL of Penobscot, VITELLI of
Sagadahoc.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 8-A, sub-c. 4** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 4**

4 **SPECIALTY CROPS CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

5 **§220-A. Specialty Crops Certification Cost-share Program**

6 The Specialty Crops Certification Cost-share Program, referred to in this subchapter
7 as "the program," is established in the department.

8 The commissioner, through the program, shall reimburse farmers for up to 50% of the
9 cost of certification of specialty crops under the "Good Agricultural Practices" and "Good
10 Handling Practices" voluntary audit programs under the United States Department of
11 Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. As used in this subchapter, "specialty
12 crops" means fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery
13 crops, including floriculture.

14 **1. Reimbursement; funds.** Reimbursement under the program may not be more
15 than \$500 per farmer per year.

16 **2. Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
17 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to implement this subchapter.

18 **3. Report.** The commissioner shall monitor the program and report findings and any
19 recommendations for changes to the program in the biennial report submitted to the
20 Legislature and the Governor pursuant to section 2, subsection 5.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill establishes the Specialty Crops Certification Cost-share Program in the
23 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and requires the Commissioner of
24 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to reimburse farmers for up to 50% of the cost of
25 certification of specialty crops under the "Good Agricultural Practices" and "Good
26 Handling Practices" voluntary audit programs under the United States Department of
27 Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. The bill also provides that reimbursement
28 to farmers for certification may not be more than \$500 per farmer per year.