



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1767

H.P. 1131

House of Representatives, April 25, 2023

An Act to Develop and Provide Technical Assistance for Meat Slaughtering and Processing

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 CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, HALL of Wilton, JAUCH of Topsham, PLUECKER of Warren, RANA of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §197** is enacted to read:

3 **§197. Meat processing workforce development and education**

4 The University of Maine shall maintain and provide cooperative extension education
5 regarding meat and poultry processing, including quality control training and hazard
6 analysis critical control point training and plan development for meat and poultry
7 processors.

8 **Sec. 2. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to create**
9 **exploratory committee.** The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
10 shall create an exploratory committee to prioritize meat and poultry processing workforce
11 training strategies in collaboration with the Department of Labor, the University of Maine
12 Cooperative Extension and meat and poultry processors in the State. The strategies may
13 include a correctional facility work-release program, the creation of a community college
14 curriculum and certificate program in meat cutting, a train-the-trainer module or funding a
15 mobile training and processing unit similar to units in other states. By December 6, 2023,
16 the department shall report the results of the committee's findings, including any policy or
17 funding recommendations, along with any recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing
18 Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which may report out legislation
19 based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

20 **Sec. 3. University of Maine to conduct study to assess feasibility of**
21 **processing and marketing meat and poultry products within State.** The
22 University of Maine shall conduct a study to assess the feasibility of processing and
23 marketing meat and poultry products within the State. The study must provide an
24 assessment identifying the financial, physical, regulatory, marketing and cultural barriers
25 to increasing meat and poultry slaughter and processing in the State and develop important
26 financial, regulatory, market and technical information reasonably useful in the decision
27 making of investors and businesses seeking to establish new or expanding meat or poultry
28 processing facilities in the State. The study must focus on the feasibility of operations
29 producing meat or poultry products raised, slaughtered, processed and sold within the State
30 and identify standards for producing halal, kosher and other religious and culturally
31 important meat products. Upon conclusion of the study, the university shall:

32 1. Release a technical report of the study's findings conveying the feasibility
33 assessment of meat and poultry processing in the State, including operational and
34 marketing considerations;

35 2. Hold a public briefing regarding the study's findings and the technical report in
36 subsection 1; and

37 3. Produce:

38 A. Decision aids pertinent to meat and poultry processing facility operators and other
39 meat and poultry marketing channel participants, including sample cost and revenue
40 projections for a sample operation and sensitivity analysis. For purposes of this
41 paragraph, "sensitivity analysis" means the study of how an uncertainty in the output
42 of a system can be predicted based upon the variables of the inputs to the system; and

1 B. A series of fact sheets, bulletins or other publications useful to meat and poultry
2 processors, investors and marketing channel participants summarizing areas of key
3 findings of the study.

4 For purposes of this subsection, "marketing channel" means the way a product or a service
5 makes its way from the point of production to the point of consumption or use by the
6 consumer.

7 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
8 allocations are made.

9 **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE**
10 **Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031**

11 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for cooperative extension education regarding meat and
12 poultry processing, including quality control training and hazard analysis critical control
13 point training and plan development for meat and poultry processors.

14 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
15 All Other	\$142,500	\$142,500
16		
17 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$142,500</u>	<u>\$142,500</u>

18 **Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031**

19 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to support a feasibility study to identify financial,
20 physical, regulatory, marketing and cultural barriers to increasing meat and poultry
21 slaughter and processing in the State.

22 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
23 All Other	\$220,000	\$220,000
24		
25 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$220,000</u>	<u>\$220,000</u>

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27 **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF**
28 **TRUSTEES OF THE**
29 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

30	2023-24	2024-25
31 GENERAL FUND	\$362,500	\$362,500
32		
33 DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$362,500</u>	<u>\$362,500</u>

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SUMMARY

35 This bill:

36 1. Establishes within the University of Maine a cooperative extension education
37 program regarding meat and poultry processing, including quality control and hazard
38 analysis critical control point training and plan development for meat and poultry
39 processors;

1 2. Requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to create an
2 exploratory committee to prioritize meat and poultry processing workforce training
3 strategies;

4 3. Directs the University of Maine to conduct a study to assess the feasibility of
5 processing and marketing meat and poultry products within the State. The study must
6 provide an assessment identifying the financial, physical, regulatory, marketing and
7 cultural barriers to increasing meat and poultry slaughter and processing in the State and
8 develop important financial, regulatory, market and technical information reasonably
9 useful in the decision making of investors and businesses seeking to establish new or
10 expanding meat or poultry processing facilities in the State; and

11 4. Includes appropriations for staffing of University of Maine cooperative extension
12 education regarding meat and poultry processing and for the University of Maine study to
13 assess the feasibility of processing and marketing meat and poultry products within the
14 State.