

Proposal by Department of Agriculture

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2153** is amended to read:

**22 §2153. Powers of commissioner**

The authority to promulgate, in a manner consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, regulations for the efficient enforcement of this subchapter is vested in the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. The commissioner is authorized to make the regulations promulgated under said subchapter conform in so far as practicable with those promulgated under the Federal Act.

Hearings authorized or required by this subchapter shall be conducted by the commissioner or such officer, agent or employee as the commissioner may designate for the purpose.

Notwithstanding Title 1, section 402, the commissioner shall prohibit the release of information provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, pursuant to 9 CFR 390.9 or by the Food and Drug Administration pursuant to 21 CFR 20.88.

(provided by Ned Porter, Deputy Commissioner)