

An Act To Establish a ~~Disaster Relief~~ Fund for ~~Potato~~ Farmers Adversely Affected by Drought Conditions

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

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

SUBCHAPTER 4

POTATO FARMERS ~~DISASTER-Drought~~ RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

§220-A. ~~Potato~~ Farmers ~~Disaster-Drought~~ Relief Grant Program

1. Grant program established. The ~~Potato~~-Farmers ~~Disaster-Drought~~ Relief Grant Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established in the department to assist ~~potato~~-farmers in the State to overcome the adverse effects of drought conditions by providing grants in accordance with this section.

2. Eligibility. A ~~potato~~-farmer in the State may apply for a grant under the program if, ~~as a result of drought conditions, the farmer's potato yield is significantly lower than that farmer's expected crop yield as determined by the most recent agricultural yield survey conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service they need to establish a sustainable, environmentally sound and affordable sources for irrigation water to alleviate the risk of crop losses due to drought.~~

3. ~~Potato~~ Farmers ~~Disaster-Drought~~ Relief Grant Program Fund. The ~~Potato~~-Farmers ~~Disaster-Drought~~ Relief Grant Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund to provide funding to achieve the purposes of the program. The fund consists of any funds received from private and public sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

4. Rules. The department shall adopt rules to implement the program. The rules must include grant eligibility requirements, grant application and award procedures and grant funding limits. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the ~~Potato~~-Farmers ~~Disaster-Drought~~ Relief Grant Program to assist ~~potato~~-farmers in the State to overcome the adverse effects of drought conditions by providing grants for the development of sustainable, environmentally sound and affordable water sources.