



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1892

H.P. 1395

House of Representatives, March 19, 2012

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Standing
Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry under the
State Government Evaluation Act**

Reported by Representative EDGECOMB of Caribou for the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §959, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 552, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 A. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
5 agriculture, conservation and forestry matters shall use the following list as a
6 guideline for scheduling reviews:

- 7 (1) Baxter State Park Authority in 2017;
- 8 (2) Department of Conservation in ~~2011~~ 2019;
- 9 ~~(3) Blueberry Advisory Committee in 2011;~~
- 10 (4) Board of Pesticides Control in ~~2011~~ 2019;
- 11 (5) Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine in ~~2011~~ 2019;
- 12 ~~(6) Seed Potato Board in 2011;~~
- 13 (7) Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council in 2015;
- 14 (8) Maine Dairy Promotion Board in 2015;
- 15 (9) Maine Milk Commission in 2015;
- 16 (10) State Harness Racing Commission in 2015;
- 17 (11) Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board in 2017;
- 18 (12) Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources in 2017; and
- 19 (14) Land for Maine's Future Board in 2015.

20 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §4312-C, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 511, §21 and
21 affected by §25, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

22 **4. Term.** Members are appointed to staggered 4-year terms so that the terms of 2
23 members expire on August 31st of every year. If the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food
24 and Rural Resources fails to make an appointment prior to the expiration of a member's
25 term, that member continues to serve until the commissioner makes an appointment for
26 the remainder of that term. If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a specified term,
27 the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall appoint an individual
28 to serve only the remainder of that term.

29 **Sec. 3. Report from Maine Potato Board.** No later than January 15, 2013, the
30 Maine Potato Board shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
31 jurisdiction over agricultural matters regarding the activities of the Seed Potato Board.
32 The report must include a summary of the production, distribution and sales of seed
33 potatoes in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

34 **Sec. 4. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36,
35 section 4312-C, subsection 4, the terms of members serving on the Wild Blueberry
36 Commission of Maine on the effective date of this Act expire at the discretion of the

1 Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to accommodate the transition
2 to terms beginning on September 1st. No later than August 15, 2012, the commissioner
3 shall appoint 2 members to begin 4-year terms on September 1, 2012. In subsequent
4 years, the commissioner shall appoint 2 members whose terms begin on September 1,
5 2013; 2 whose terms begin on September 1, 2014; and 2 whose terms begin on September
6 1, 2015.

7 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill is the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation
9 and Forestry pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4. It
10 establishes dates for the next review of agencies under the State Government Evaluation
11 Act. It removes the Blueberry Advisory Committee and the Seed Potato Board from the
12 list of agencies to be reviewed. It ensures continuing staggered terms for members of the
13 Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine. It requires the Maine Potato Board to report to
14 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural
15 matters on seed potato production, distribution and sales no later than January 15, 2013.

16 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

17 **(See attached)**