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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 120, L.D. 287, Bill, “An Act To Improve Funding of Agricultural Development Projects”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §306-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 72, §5, is amended to read:

3. Rulemaking. The commissioner shall establish, by rule, in a manner consistent with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A criteria for the allocation of grant money, application requirements consistent with the provisions of this section, a schedule for accepting and reviewing applications, reporting requirements on grant expenditures and project results and any other administrative requirements necessary for the efficient implementation of this program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are ~~routine technical~~ major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A. The commissioner is guided by the following criteria:

A. Applications may be submitted by individuals, firms or organizations in response to a request for proposals for competitive grants. The commissioner may also contract directly with individuals, firms or organizations for a special project under section 307;

B. ~~At least 25% A percentage~~ A percentage of the total cost of any project must be funded by the applicant or applicants and ~~at least 10% a percentage~~ a percentage of the total cost must be funded from nonpublic sources. These percentages must be established by rule. A single grant may not exceed ~~20%~~ 50% of the total funds available to be granted in a given year; ~~however, in no case may a single grant exceed \$30,000;~~

C. Information relative to market research or development activities provided to the commissioner prior to formal application, included in grant applications or provided to the commissioner to fulfill reporting requirements is confidential information and may not be publicly disclosed by the commissioner as long as:

- (1) The person to whom the information belongs or pertains has requested that certain information be designated as confidential; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

