



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 289

H.P. 198

House of Representatives, February 7, 2013

**An Act To Eliminate the Requirement That the Department of
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Provide Technical Services
for Direct-marketing Agricultural Products**

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAY of Palmyra.

Cosponsored by Senator BOYLE of Cumberland and

Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, GIFFORD of Lincoln, NOON of Sanford, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, Senator: SHERMAN of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §414**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 779, §34, is further amended to
3 read:

4 **§414. Assistance**

5 The commissioner shall assist and advise individual farmers or groups of farmers in
6 their efforts to market more effectively directly to consumers by:

7 **1. Soliciting participation.** Informing farmers of, and soliciting their participation
8 in, any proposed method of direct-marketing; and

9 ~~**2. Technical assistance.** Providing technical assistance in such areas as lease and
10 contract negotiation; and~~

11 **3. Referral.** Referring farmers to other appropriate sources of assistance, such as the
12 University of Maine ~~System~~, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture, the
13 county extension association offices and the United States Department of Agriculture.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill removes the provision in the laws regarding the agriculture direct-marketing
16 assistance program that requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and
17 Forestry to provide technical assistance for lease and contract negotiation.