

STATE OF MAINE

—
 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
 TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTEEN

—
 H.P. 198 - L.D. 289

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

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §412, first ¶, as amended by PL 1985, c. 779, §33, is further amended to read:

The commissioner shall research and prepare information designed to develop and promote direct-marketing. The commissioner shall consult with the farm community, with the faculty of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture of the University of Maine ~~System~~, and with the various county extension agents in compiling information under this section. The information ~~shall~~ must include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

§414. Assistance

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

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

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

3. Referral. Referring farmers to other appropriate sources of assistance, ~~such as the University of Maine System, College of Agriculture, the county extension offices and the United States Department of Agriculture.~~