



Maine Food Recovery Act

Support: LD 1534

An Act to Help Hunger, Support Maine Farms, and Reduce Waste

Sponsored by: Rep. Craig Hickman

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At a time when many Mainers do not have enough to eat, too much food is being wasted.

- Maine ranks first in New England in food insecurity. One of every four Maine children does not get enough to eat on a regular basis.
- About 28% of what is in our garbage bags is wasted food, much of it still edible, costing municipalities and businesses millions of dollars in disposal fees.
- 97% of wasted food goes to landfills, using up limited space and producing methane gas – 20 times more powerful in changing our climate than CO₂.
- Maine farmers, restaurants, grocery stores, and large facilities like schools and hospitals want to help. But Maine policies do not encourage or adequately protect them if they do.

The Legislature can help Maine farmers, taxpayers, cities, and towns save money while addressing food insecurity and boosting innovative small businesses.

The Maine Food Recovery Act would:

- Strengthen liability protections for donors of food, and add protections for businesses that sell directly to the consumer at a discount.
- Provide a tax credit to Maine farmers who donate food to help fight hunger.
- Create a commission made up of businesses, institutions, and state agencies that will develop recommendations for a statewide strategy to reduce food waste. It also creates guidance for homeowners, businesses, municipalities, and large institutions like K-12 schools to set up food recovery and composting programs that save money.