

Annual Report Maine State Grange Legislative Committee 2017

Wow! What a year the Legislative Committee has spent dealing with the Maine Legislature. Three attempts for bills and three failures. However, there's one bill, or resolution, that has passed the Maine Legislature, but it has run into trouble with the feds.

The Maine Voting Residency Requirements resolution written by Cumberland Pomona No. 15 was submitted to a local legislator as a possible bill. Somehow my request fell by the wayside, having been misplaced by the legislator, so it missed the cloture date for bills to be submitted.

Another bill submitted to the Maine Legislature was in regards to a resolution titled Universally Uniformed State Vehicle Inspection submitted by Cumberland Pomona No. 15. It questioned why Cumberland County should be penalized by paying a \$15.50 automobile inspection fee when the rest of the state pays \$12.50. This resolution never became a bill because back in 1998 the Maine Legislature voted that an increase in Cumberland's inspection fee was due to the fact that Cumberland County has an emissions inspection requirement whereas other counties don't have such a requirement. Hence, the extra three dollar charge.

One resolution that became a Maine Legislature bill, LD 623, was the resolution Two Year Vehicle Inspections submitted by Cumberland Pomona No. 12. The resolution was an effort to require vehicles under six years old to have inspections only every other year. It was voted ought not to pass out of the Transportation Committee and in concurrence by the legislature. The bill is officially dead.

And, finally, a winner! The Community Based Local Food Production resolution submitted by Halcyon Grange No. 345 became law on June 16, 2017. The resolution requires local municipalities to be responsible for regulations regarding the sale of home grown foods rather than the state or federal government. The Maine legislative law, LD 725, titled An Act to Recognize Local Control Regarding Food and Water Systems.

However, now there's a hitch. The federal government has determined that meat and poultry products cannot be included. I would assume in order to save the law the Legislature must come up with an amendment excluding those products. We'll see what happens next January when the Maine Legislature reconvenes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Annis. Legislative Director
Maine State Grange