

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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289 AN ACT TO INCLUDE POVERTY
TAX ABATEMENTS IN NET
GENERAL ASSISTANCE COSTS

Rep. Baker

MAJ-ONTP
MIN-OTP-A
HSE-ACCP TONP
SEN-INDEF. PP

SUMMARY: The bill would have made property tax abatements granted by municipalities to persons unable to pay because of poverty a reimburseable cost under the General Assistance program. The state reimbursement would not be automatic; it would only help those communities that were eligible for reimbursement because their General Assistance costs were above .003 of their 1981 property tax evaluation.

The Committee Amendment (H-242) required that the guidelines for granting property tax abatements be formally adopted by the municipality.

Many felt the bill was a form of tax reform; others felt it would help only the larger towns.

349 AN ACT TO PREVENT CONTAMINA-
TION OF MILK THROUGH THE
USE OF FORMALDEHYDE

Rep. McCollister

LV/WD
HSE-ACCP LV/WD
SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill would have made it illegal to sell milk or milk products produced or stored in places having urea-formaldehyde insulation.

Testimony from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources indicated that the Department was not aware of any farm buildings with this type of insulation, nor any studies showing the use of this type of insulation to be a problem.

The bill was withdrawn, and a letter was sent to the Commissioner asking that the Department publicize concerns about this problem to dairy farmers and milk processors.

478 AN ACT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH
OF CHILDREN BY PROHIBITING THE
FREE DISTRIBUTION OF CIGARETTES

Rep. Ketover

MAJ-OTP
MIN-ONTP
HSE-ENACT.
SEN-ENACT.
GOV-SIGNED
PL 83, c. 239

SUMMARY: The bill prohibited the distribution of cigarettes or other tobacco products in public areas (including in or near schools and parks) or in common areas of private buildings, shopping centers or malls. A fine of between \$20 and \$50 would result for each hour of violating the law.

The intent of the bill was to enlarge the prohibition against distributing cigarettes to children by making sure cigarettes distributed to adults would not be discarded in areas where children might gain access to them.