

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
113TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE

MAY 1988

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Sen. R. Donald Twitchell  
Sen. Henry W. Black

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\* Denotes Chair

Staff: John Knox, Legislative Analyst

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**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST & SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
MAY 1988**

*This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.*

*All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are indicated as follows::*

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>OTP</b>       | <b>Ought to Pass</b>                         |
| <b>OTP-ND</b>    | <b>Ought to Pass in New Draft</b>            |
| <b>OTP-ND-NT</b> | <b>Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title</b> |
| <b>OTP-A</b>     | <b>Ought to Pass as Amended</b>              |
| <b>ONTP</b>      | <b>Ought Not to Pass</b>                     |
| <b>LVWD</b>      | <b>Leave to Withdraw</b>                     |
| <b>INDEF PP</b>  | <b>Indefinitely Postponed</b>                |

*Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Secretaries: Charlene Brann, Janet Jean, Earl Knox, Valarie Parlin; Research Assistant Hartley Palleschi. Finally, Secretary Laurette Knox, Legal Assistant Carolyn Chick, and Research Assistant Robert Dunn had special responsibilities in the preparation of the overall document.*

*Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.*

| <u>SPONSOR(S)</u> | <u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u> | <u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MAHANY            |                         | S-523 PEARSON             |
| TARDY             |                         |                           |
| PARADIS J         |                         |                           |
| PINES             |                         |                           |

SUMMARY  
New Draft Of LD 2199

The original bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to apply for a registered certification trademark, including a seal and associated words, for agricultural products produced in the State that meet state quality standards. This bill also authorizes \$196,700 in funds for administration and promotion of the use of this state trademark.

This new draft eliminates sardines from the program; eliminates the 90% Maine product requirement and allows the Commissioner to determine the minimum for each commodity group, requires the Commissioner to grant a waiver from the minimum when emergency market conditions dictate; adds a provision that the Commissioner shall contract for the promotion of the trademark; and takes some money from the promotion appropriation and adds it to the capital expenditures appropriation to fund activities and other travel expenses for the produce inspectors.

| <u>SPONSOR(S)</u> | <u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u> | <u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BLACK             | OTP                     |                           |
| SHERBURNE         |                         |                           |
| NUTTING           |                         |                           |

SUMMARY  
This bill would establish a permit program under which commercial dairy farms selling milk to milk dealers are required to have a permit issued by the Department Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Three purposes are served by the establishment of such a program. First, if a particular farm does not meet sanitation or other regulatory standards, a permit program allows regulatory action to be taken with respect to that farm. Second, farmers will be protected from arbitrary actions by their dealers, as well as by regulators thru the permits. Third it should help in the achievement of the department's and industry's long-sought goal of interstate reciprocity in farm inspections and in other requirements related to interstate milk shipment and handling.