

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE

JUNE 1990

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**One Hundred and Fourteenth Legislature
Second Regular Session**

**Joint Standing Committee
Bill Summaries**

June 1990

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 for 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. Committee Reports and Floor Action are abbreviated as follows:

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

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture

LD 1734

**An Act to Increase Various License and Registration Fees of
the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**

PUBLIC 888

SPONSOR(S)

TARDY
EMERSON
WHITCOMB

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-975

SUMMARY

This bill, as amended by the committee amendment, increases various license fees administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, Division of Regulations.

Three categories of retail food establishments are created. Retail food establishments with 25 or fewer employees will continue to pay their existing license fee of \$10 or \$30. Retail food establishments with 26 or more employees will pay a fee of \$100.

The bill incorporates changes made by PL 1989, c. 664, (LD 2121) by establishing a \$30 license fee for food salvage establishments and salvage brokers. The bill appropriates \$45,000 of the estimated \$94,157 to be generated from the fee increases to the Agricultural Awareness program.

LD 1737

Resolve, to Establish the Commission on Maine's Food Policy

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)

WHITCOMB
TARDY
EMERSON

COMMITTEE REPORT

LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This carry-over resolve would have established a Commission on Maine's Food Policy.

LD 1830

**An Act to Ensure the Independence of the Animal Welfare
Board**

PUBLIC 701

SPONSOR(S)

CLARK N
MARTIN J

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM MAJ
ONTP MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-906 WHITCOMB
S-523 MAJ REP
S-564 PEARSON

SUMMARY

The bill, as amended by the committee amendment, removes the Animal Welfare Board from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and gives the board independent status. The board can name its executive director subject to confirmation by the Legislature. The current executive director will continue in that role under the transition provisions of the amendment. The current director and other board staff will remain within the civil service. Future directors would be unclassified employees.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources is given the option to investigate, prior to action by the board, any complaints involving commercial farms, harness racing horses or animals used in pulling events with respect to acceptable animal husbandry practices. An investigation by the commissioner will not preclude the board from conducting its own investigation.