

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY 1994

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

MAY 1994

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 volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number, together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX

P&S XXX

RESOLVE XXX

CON RES XXX

EMERGENCY

ONTP

INDEF PP

FAILED ENACTMENT

FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT

FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE

VETO SUSTAINED

UNSIGNED

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Chapter # of enacted Public Law

Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law

Chapter # of enacted Resolve

Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses

Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days

Ought Not to Pass report accepted

Bill Indefinitely Postponed

Bill failed to get majority vote

Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote

Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote

House & Senate disagree; bill died

Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died

Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Not signed by Governor within 10 days

Action incomplete when session ended; bill died

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If you have any suggestions or comments on the summaries, please let us know.

5581LHS

Joint Standing Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

LD 49 **An Act to Set Reasonable Dioxin Levels** **ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)
GRAY

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have established an ambient water quality standard for dioxin consistent with the guidance standard developed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The scientific basis of that standard is currently under review by the federal government. The committee declined to enact this bill prior to the completion of the federal scientific reassessment.

LD 256 **An Act to Allow the Use of Advanced Lightweight Beverage Containers** **PUBLIC 591**

SPONSOR(S)
JACQUES

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-798

SUMMARY

Effective September 1, 1994, this bill allows the sale of metallized or plastic film containers that meet standards requiring significant reductions in the total weight of packaging material necessary to store beverages. This bill also exempts this type of packaging from the bottle deposit law.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (H-798) adds language allowing the sale of aseptic beverage packaging (juice boxes) in the State. Aseptic beverage packaging will also be exempt from the bottle deposit law. The Maine Waste Management Agency is directed to evaluate recycling efforts undertaken by the affected manufacturers and to report on the results of these efforts to the Legislature in 1995. The Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to report out legislation upon review of this report, if needed, to amend the laws regarding aseptic beverage packaging. This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill. (See LD 975)

LD 554 **An Act to Establish a Pilot Project to Mediate Certain Environmental Disputes** **P & S 65**

SPONSOR(S)
MELENDY

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-745

SUMMARY

This bill would have required the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to make an offer of mediation prior to proceeding with any administrative enforcement action or civil litigation.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-745) replaces the bill. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a pilot project to use mediation to resolve certain disputes relating to uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Mediation could be used to resolve clean-up and cost allocation issues, but would not be used for law enforcement matters without approval of the Attorney General. The pilot project would operate until June 1, 1996, with interim reporting requirements and a final report due by November 1, 1996. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.