

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**JULY 1997**

***MEMBERS:***

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*Sen. Judy Paradis*

*Sen. R. Leo Kieffer*

*Rep. George H. Bunker, Chair*

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**August 1997**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

*David E. Boulter, Director*  
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

be prosecuted as criminal violations or treated as civil violations. This bill would have required the following violations to be prosecuted as criminal violations; unlawful use of animals, failing to provide sustenance to an animal, failure to provide necessary medical attention to an animal, failure to provide shelter and clean conditions for an animal, and cruelty to animals. It also proposed imposing a duty on a veterinarian who knew or had reasonable cause to suspect that an animal was the subject of cruelty or neglect to report such knowledge or suspicion to the local law enforcement agency or animal control officer.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-214)** proposed replacing the original bill. It proposed increasing the minimum fine from \$100 to \$250 for civil violations under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 739, Cruelty to Animals.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 170 increases the minimum fine from \$100 to \$250 for civil violations under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 739, Cruelty to Animals.

**LD 1078**

**An Act to Require Labeling on Genetically Engineered Food**

**INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHARTRAND	OTP-AM MAJ	
NUTTING	ONTP MIN	

LD 1078 proposed requiring the labeling of genetically engineered food. A manufacturer or distributor who sold a genetically engineered food without the words “genetically engineered” on the invoice would be in violation of provisions prohibiting misbranded food. A manufacturer or distributor who sold a genetically engineered food without the words “genetically engineered” on the invoice would be in violation of provisions prohibiting misbranding of food. A retailer who sold or offered for sale a genetically engineered food without the prescribed label on packaged food or the sign next to food that is not packaged would be in violation of provisions prohibiting misbranding of food. The bill proposed a definition of genetically engineered food.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-394)** was the majority report of the Committee and proposed replacing the original bill and it would have prohibited genetically engineered food from being labeled or advertised as organic or natural. The majority report was not adopted.

**LD 1092**

**An Act to Provide Public Information on Forest Management Practices**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMSON	ONTP MAJ	
MILLS	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1092 proposed making annual wood processing reports, forest landowner harvest reports and precommercial silvicultural practices reports available to the public. It also proposed requiring forest landowners to report additional information regarding the establishment of plantations.