

# 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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**Maine State Legislature**

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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:

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

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

**LD 1463**

**An Act to Regulate Camp Lot Leases**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1463 proposed requirements for the leasing of camp lots. The bill proposed a definition of camp lot. Under the provisions proposed in LD 1463, leases of camp lots would have been for a period of five years and would have been renewable at the option of the lessee. The lessee would have been allowed to purchase the camp lot at the expiration of the lease. If the lessor decided to sell the camp lot, the lessee would have to be given the first option to purchase the camp lot at fair market value. The bill would have limited rental increases on camp lots to the average percentage in increase in the valuation of residential property in the unorganized territory.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-572)** was the minority report of the Committee. It proposed amending the definition of camp lot to include only those lease lots where the lessee owned or was the mortgagee for the buildings on the lot. It proposed removing the provision in the original bill that required a lease to contain a provision permitting purchase of the lot. This amendment proposed prohibiting a lease provision that terminated the lease upon enactment of legislation relating to leases. This amendment also would have required a lessor who terminated a lease to compensate the lessee for improvements to the lot. The minority report was not adopted.

**LD 1465**

**An Act to Limit Liquidation Harvesting**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHIAH		

LD 1465 proposes requiring a permit for any harvesting of timber that would result in a clear-cut or understocked stand. The Department of Conservation would be authorized to grant permits only when harvesting was being proposed for one of four specified purposes. The bill proposes replacing the definitions section in the current forest practices laws, in particular, replacing the definition of “clear-cut” with a definition of “clear-cut or understocked stand” based on criteria set forth in stocking guides for the Northeast. This bill proposes a penalty section that increases the fines applicable for violations of forest harvesting regulations.

**LD 1473**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Forest Practices**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CASSIDY BARTH		

LD 1473 proposes to amend the laws governing forest practices by limiting the maximum land area that could be clear-cut in any year and by providing that an individual clear-cut could not exceed 50 acres in total area for forest ownerships of more than 500 acres.

The bill proposes to amend the provisions governing the process by which a municipality may propose to adopt or amend a timber harvesting ordinance. The bill proposes adding eight foresters to the Maine Forest Service in the Department of Conservation and requiring the department to hold 14 seminars per year, two at each of the seven campuses of the Maine Technical College System, to educate landowners and harvesters regarding forest practices.

**LD 1518                      Resolve, to Establish the Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study Commission                      CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLENIK		

LD 1518 proposes a resolve to establish the Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study Commission. The resolve directs the commission to study key forest economic and labor issues. The commission is to directed to issue a report that assesses problems and makes recommendations for changes in the State's forestry policy. The commission is directed to submit its report and necessary implementing legislation to the 119th Legislature by January 1, 2000.

**LD 1543                      An Act to Restrict the First Day of Reservations for State Parks to Residents of the State Only                      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GREEN MILLS	ONTP	

LD 1543 proposed requiring that each year the first day of reservations for overnight camping in state parks be set aside for receiving reservations by Maine residents.

**LD 1646                      An Act to Increase the Effectiveness of the Maine Blueberry Commission                      PUBLIC 511 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POVICH HARRIMAN	OTP-AM	H-444

LD 1646 proposed making the Maine Blueberry Commission a public instrumentality of the State. It also proposed changing the commission's name to the "Maine Wild Blueberry Commission" and changing references from "blueberries" to "wild blueberries." The bill also proposed amending the terms of members of the commission so that terms would end on August 31st and would be staggered.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-444)** proposed changing the name of the commission from the "Maine Wild Blueberry Commission" to the "Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine." It proposed clarifying that a grower who