

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: Sen. Marge L. Kilkelly, Chair Sen. Judy Paradis Sen. R. Leo Kieffer

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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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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).

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	
	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINA	L PASSAGE Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE	
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
<i>OTP ND</i>	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	Committee report Ought ToPass 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 Bill held by Governor
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.

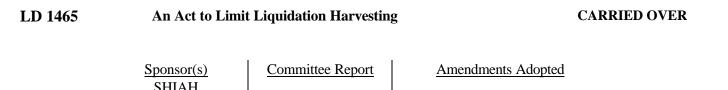
David E. Boulter, Director Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

LD 1463 An Act to Regulate Camp Lot Leases

Sponsor(s)	Committee	Report	Amendments Adopted
SIROIS	ONTP	MAJ	
PARADIS	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 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
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Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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.

SHIAH

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 CARRIED OVER Commission

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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 ONTP Residents of the State Only

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GREEN	ONTP	
MILLS		

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 PUBLIC 511 Commission EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
POVICH	OTP-AM	H-444
HARRIMAN		

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