

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

MAY 1998

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. Judy Paradis*

*Sen. R. Leo Kieffer*

*Rep. George H. Bunker, Chair*

*Rep. Roland B. Samson*

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

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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:

- 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

Chapter 642 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 31, 1998.

**LD 1907**                      **An Act Regarding Short-rotation Tree Fiber Farming and Genetically Engineered Trees**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FERGUSON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1907 proposed definitions of "genetically engineered tree" and "short rotation tree fiber farming" and exempting short rotation tree fiber farming from the rules established by the Commissioner of Conservation to implement forest practices laws under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 805, subchapter III-A.

**LD 1942**                      **Resolve, Authorizing the Transfer of Certain State Park Property**                      **RESOLVE 87**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WINSOR BENNETT		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1942 proposed transferring certain property from the State to the Town of Norway. The property was purchased by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation in 1973 and has been managed by the Town of Norway as a public park and boat launching area since acquisition by the State.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1997, chapter 87 transfers 57 acres of land in the Town of Norway from the State to the Town of Norway to be used for a public park and boat launch.

**LD 2004**                      **An Act to Ensure Long-term Funding of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station Research Farms Connected with Land Grant Colleges**                      **PUBLIC 711**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GREEN TREAT		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-1029 GREEN H-929 S-605 KILKELLY
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LD 2004 proposed requiring the University of Maine at Orono Land Grant College to establish a line item for the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station research farms, to fund the research farms with funding equal to or exceeding 1995 levels. The bill proposed creating a Board of Agriculture to manage the farms, oversee the development of long-range plans for the agricultural experiment station farms, research programs and Cooperative Extension Service programs and coordinate activities with existing agricultural commodity organizations interested in, or currently supporting, research at the research farms.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-929)** proposed language to clarify that final authority for administration of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station rests with the Director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. It proposed removing the emergency preamble from the bill and placing in unallocated law a directive to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System regarding funding for the experimental farms within the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. It proposed language clarifying those programs on which the Board of Agriculture is to advise the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the University of Maine. It proposed adding to the Board of Agriculture a member to represent a statewide organic farmers and growers association and the Director of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. It proposed removing the directive that the long-range plan developed by the Board of Agriculture include plans for regionalizing extension facilities.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1029)** proposes that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House each appoint one member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters to the Board of Agriculture established within the University of Maine. The original bill proposed that the President and the Speaker jointly appoint these members.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-605)** proposed a correction in the name of an agricultural advisory committee with which the Board of Agriculture is directed to consult.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 711 establishes the Board of Agriculture within the University of Maine to advise the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the University on operation and management of agricultural research conducted by the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. It requires the Board of Agriculture to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters. It directs the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to strive to increase funds to the experimental farms.

**LD 2006                      An Act to Expand the Potato Licensing Laws to Include Rotation                      PUBLIC 606**  
**Crops**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KNEELAND KIEFFER	OTP-AM	H-817

LD 2006 proposed expanding the licensing requirements under the Maine potato laws to include small grains and flax, which are traditionally used as rotation crops for the production of potatoes.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-817)** proposed adding soybeans to the definition of rotation crops, raising the maximum bonding level to \$400,000 for dealers involved in buying and selling both potatoes and rotation crops and striking the section of the bill relating to inspections and guarantees of rotation crops.

*Enacted law summary*