

# 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.

**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 Crops**

**PUBLIC 606**

<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*

Public Law 1997, chapter 606 requires persons who buy, solicit or negotiate the sale of crops grown in rotation with potatoes to be licensed. It raises the maximum bonding level to \$400,000 for dealers involved in buying and selling both potatoes and rotation crops

**LD 2017**                      **An Act to Provide Access to Veterinary Education for Maine Students**                      **PUBLIC 765**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LONGLEY CHICK	OTP-AM	S-725 MICHAUD

LD 2017 proposed amending the laws governing the program under which the Finance Authority of Maine secures access for Maine residents at institutions of allopathic and osteopathic medicine by expanding the program to include access for students of veterinary medicine.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-456)** proposed adding an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-725)** proposed decreasing from 2 to 1, the number of positions secured annually for Maine students of veterinary medicine.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 765 directs the Finance Authority of Maine to secure one position annually for students at a school of veterinary medicine. It appropriates \$12,500 to secure a position in fiscal year 1998-99.

**LD 2020**                      **An Act to Honor Dairy Farmers' Right to Know**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LONGLEY CHICK	ONTP	

LD 2020 proposed requiring a milk dealer to provide certain information to a milk producer when monthly payment for milk is made.

**LD 2069**                      **An Act to Improve Public Health Protection Against Rabies Infection**                      **PUBLIC 704**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARADIS	OTP-AM	S-577

LD 2069 proposed enforcement procedures for rabies prevention. It proposed clarifying the definition of wolf hybrid and the declaration of species at the time of licensure of that animal. It proposed requiring the immediate killing of a wolf hybrid having bitten a person or domestic animal and suspected of having rabies. It also proposed