

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

JULY 1999

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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).

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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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 September 18, 1999.

LD 395

An Act to Protect Traditional Access to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNLAP MICHAUD	ONTP	

LD 395 proposed requiring the Bureau of Parks and Lands to continue allowing access to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway via trails and roads approved for use prior to June 30, 1998. It also proposed that access to the waterway be allowed at John's Bridge.

LD 407

An Act to Reconcile Minor Technical Differences between Forest Practices Laws and Rules

PUBLIC 361

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOOLEY NUTTING J	OTP-AM	H-551

LD 407 proposed defining separation zone to allow an exception to the 250 foot minimum width between clearcuts when the area cut is within 250 feet of a property line. The bill also proposed allowing the Bureau of Forestry to exempt or modify through rulemaking the statutory requirements regarding signatures submitted on a harvest notification form. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Conversation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-551) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed changes in certain definitions and notification requirements for implementing the forest practices laws. It proposed requiring a forest management plan for clear-cuts over 20 acres. Currently a management plan is needed for clear-cuts over 35 acres.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 361 reduces the minimum height of softwood trees that are counted when assessing a site after harvesting to determine if the definition of a clear-cut has been met. It requires a forest management plan for clear-cuts over 20 acres. Currently a management plan is needed for clear-cuts over 35 acres. It allows a separation zone to be less than 250 feet in width when a clear-cut is near a property line. It requires a separation zone to be equal to or greater than the clear-cut area. It exempts certain small area harvests from the notification requirement. It removes the requirement for a notarized statement to be submitted with certain notification forms. It allows the harvest notification number to be posted at a harvest site rather than a copy of the notification form.

LD 449

An Act Requiring Disclosures to be Made to Purchasers of Land Abutting Agricultural Land

CARRIED OVER

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

LD 449 proposes requiring prospective purchasers of land abutting registered farmland to receive notice of the characteristics of farming activities in that area.