

# 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

*Staff:*  
*Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis*  
*Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333*  
*(207)287-1670*

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**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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](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  
*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.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-524)** proposed allowing useable timber products generated from right-of-way maintenance to be piled within the right-of-way of a public road for up to 30 days. It proposed clarifying that the permits referred to are burning permits. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 332 amends the laws governing the disposal of slash by a landowner who cuts forest growth on land that is within or borders on the right-of-way of a public highway, railroad or utility. It also amends the laws governing the disposal of slash accumulated by utility line construction or maintenance. amendment allows useable timber products generated from right-of-way maintenance to be piled within the right-of-way of a public road for up to 30 days. It clarifies that the permits referred to are burning permits.

**LD 2085**

**An Act to Update the Statutes and Provide for the Basic Needs of the  
Maine Conservation Corps**

**VETO  
SUSTAINED**

Sponsor(s)  
KILKELLY  
MCKEE

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
S-171

LD 2085 proposed updating the laws governing the Maine Conservation Corps Program to encourage greater diversity among participants, to allow partnerships between the Corps and private nonprofit organizations and to clarify the types of activities that program participants may participate in. The bill also proposed appropriating money for 2 new positions and for computer networking.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-171)** proposed corrections in the appropriations section and adding a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 2086**

**An Act to Preserve the State's Farm Economy and Heritage**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)  
PINGREE

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2086 proposes creating the Maine Farms for the Future Program. This program would provide funds to assist farms in developing business plans. The plans would identify changes in farm management practices and investments in equipment and property that would increase the vitality of the farm. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources would administer the program or contract with a suitable organization to administer the program.

The program as proposed would operate in 2 phases; the first phase allowing a farm that has 5 or more acres of land in agricultural use to apply for assistance in developing a business plan and the 2nd phase allowing a farm that has developed a business plan with the program to apply for investment support to implement the plan. Both selection processes would be conducted by a review panel organized by the department.

The duties of the department or the suitable organization the department contracted to administer the program would be to promote the program to farms in the State, organize the review panel, develop selection criteria for both phases of the program, administer the disbursement of funds, execute and enforce farmland protection agreements and make a yearly progress report on the program to the Legislature. This bill proposes appropriating \$1,000,000 to capitalize the program.