

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

July 2007

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JILL IPPOLITI, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP-ND.....	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
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 that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

LD 876 Resolve, To Study Maine's Agricultural Creative Economy Sector

RESOLVE 13

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIEH	OTP-AM	H-68

LD 876 directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Conservation to collaborate on a study of the creative, rural agricultural value-added sector of the State's economy. It directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to submit a report on the study to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature along with any recommended legislation no later than December 5, 2007.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-68)

This amendment makes technical changes to the resolve and specifies that the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development and implementing legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 13 directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the Department of Labor, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Conservation to collaborate on a study of the value-added agricultural creative economy sector of the State's economy. The departments are directed to consider the economic impact of expanding and diversifying agricultural businesses, barriers to small-scale food production, creation of a cabinet level advisory board to develop strategies for economic development in agriculture, and the need for funding and positions to nurture the agricultural creative economy.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development and implementing legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature by December 5, 2007.

LD 923 An Act To Prohibit the Surgical Removal of Vocal Cords in Dogs

ONTP

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

LD 923 prohibits the removal of a dog's vocal cords for nonmedical reasons.

LD 924 An Act To Preserve Agricultural Fairs in Rural Maine

**PUBLIC 183
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LUNDEEN	OTP-AM	H-227

LD 924 enables agricultural fairs that held extended harness racing meets in 1998 to share in the revenues generated by the racino. This bill also corrects a conflict created by Public Law 2005, chapters 563 and 576,

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

which affected the same provision of law.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-227)

This amendment enables agricultural fairs that held extended harness racing meets in 1998 to share in the revenues generated by the racino until the end of 2009. At that point eligibility to share in revenue reverts to agricultural fairs that held extended harness racing meets in 2005. This amendment also adds a retroactivity clause to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 183 enables agricultural fairs that held extended harness racing meets in 1998 to share in the revenues generated by the racino until the end of 2009. At that point eligibility to share in revenue reverts to agricultural fairs that held extended harness racing meets in 2005.

Public Law 2007, chapter 183 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 29, 2007.

**LD 965 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 328:
Rules Governing the Licensing and Inspection of Farm Cheese, a Major
Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural
Resources**

**RESOLVE 9
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

OTP

LD 965 provides for legislative review of the repeal of portions of Chapter 328: Rules Governing the Licensing and Inspection of Farm Cheese, a major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2007, chapter 9 authorizes the repeal of portions of Chapter 328: Rules Governing the Licensing and Inspection of Farm Cheese, a major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Resolve 2007, chapter 9 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 17, 2007.

LD 971 An Act To Amend Certain Animal Health Laws

PUBLIC 128

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

PIEH

OTP-AM

H-80

LD 971 adds fertile avian eggs to the list of imported animals requiring importation permits.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-80)

This amendment defines the term "avian hatching egg" and uses that term in place of "fertile avian egg."

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, chapter 128 adds avian hatching eggs to the list of imported animals requiring importation permits.