

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE  
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
JUNE 1987

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Sponsor: MAHANY, Lisnik, Pines, Theriault  
Committee Report: OTP-A  
Amendments Adopted:  
H-222 COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: The intent of this bill is to provide wider access to the potato marketing improvement fund which was originally established in 1981 and funded by a \$5,000,000 General Fund bond issue. This program lends money to farmers to modernize existing potato storage and packing facilities and to construct new facilities. Two changes are made in the program to offer farmers more opportunity to participate. First, since some farmers' production volume is too low to justify individual investment in a new storage facility, cooperative projects costing more than \$50,000 are encouraged because the bill raises the fund participation limit in such projects to 50% while lowering the farmers' own investment requirement to a minimum of 5%. Second, in order to encourage retrofits of existing facilities, which are generally less expensive projects, the fund participation limit is raised to 55% and no investment of farmer funds is required. In addition, this bill makes it clear that no administrative charge is to be assessed for these smaller projects.

**LD** AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE EFFORTS OF THE MAINE  
**1150** POTATO INDUSTRY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE  
MAINE POTATO BOARD TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF  
MAINE TABLESTOCK POTATOES.

PL 1987  
c. 99

Sponsor: LISNIK, Martin J, Tardy, Collins  
Committee Report New draft of LD 474  
Amendments Adopted:  
S-31 MATTHEWS Z  
S-32 MATTHEWS Z

SUMMARY: This bill abolishes the old Maine Potato Quality Control Board and transfers responsibilities it held to the new Maine Potato Board. It also appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to give to the Maine Potato Board for the promotion of tablestock transfers and for the development of appropriate grading standards.