

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MARINE RESOURCES
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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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

LD
1328

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TAX TO PROVIDE FOR THE
COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING OF PARALYTIC SHELLFISH
POISON.

CARRY-OVER

Sponsor: VOSE, Moholland, Look
Committee Report: CARRY-OVER

SUMMARY: This bill proposed a shellfish excise tax to provide the state with the resources to more comprehensively and effectively monitor Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) or red tide. Currently, major portions of the Maine coast are closed to shellfish harvesting each year because the Department of Marine Resources does not have the resources to consistently monitor the coast. These conservative closures result in economic deprivation to people in the shellfish industry.

LD 1328 proposed a volume-based, per bushel tax of 50¢ collected from dealers as the fairest way to fund PSP monitoring. Under this scheme, species which require greater expense and effort to monitor pay a higher percent tax relative to the cost per bushel of the species. Conversely, a value tax favored by some proponents would shift the tax burden onto the soft-shell clam, a relatively easy species to monitor.

Opponents to the bill acknowledged the importance of the program but sited hardship to dealers (the point of tax collection) operating in a highly competitive multistate market and the difficulty in enforcing the tax.

The committee, noting the importance of accurate PSP monitoring, voted to hold the bill over to the second regular session. They felt that a per bushel tax, regardless of whom it was levied on, would aggravate the problem of unreported shellfish sales. A subcommittee will meet during the interim to develop recommendations on how to fund the program.

LD AN ACT RELATING TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
1345 ATLANTIC SEA RUN SALMON COMMISSION.

PL 1987
c. 526
EMERGENCY

Sponsor: GWADOSKY, Carter, Ruhlin, Matthews Z
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 567
Amendments Adopted:
S-97 PEARSON
S-249 PEARSON

SUMMARY: The original bill proposed to increase the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission membership by adding an additional three public members. The sponsor noted this