

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

PREPARED BY:

Gro Flatebo, Legislative Analyst

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
STATE HOUSE, STATION 13 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
(207) 289-1670

HELEN T. GINDER, DIRECTOR
HAVEN WHITESIDE, DEP. DIRECTOR
GILBERT W. BREWER
DAVID C. ELLIOTT
GRO FLATEBO
MARTHA E. FREEMAN, SR. ATTY.
JERI B. GAUTSCHI
CHRISTOS GIANOPOULOS
WILLIAM T. GLIDDEN, JR.



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

ROOM 101/107
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

JULIE S. JONES
JOHN B. KNOX
EDWARD POTTER
MARGARET J. REINSCH
LARS H. RYDELL
JOHN R. SELSER
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HARTLEY PALLESCHI, JR., RES. ASST.
KATHRYN VAN NOTE, RES. ASST.

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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

Sponsor: JACQUES
Committee Report: New draft of LD 42

SUMMARY: This bill originally added cats to the section involving nuisance dogs, allowing landowners to kill nuisance cats molesting or attacking livestock, domestic animals or poultry. It also included wild birds and animals raised in captivity with the other domestic animals a person can protect against nuisance dogs and cats. The term "exotic" was defined, and exotic animals exempted from banding requirements. The bill generated considerable controversy over the provisions involving domestic cats.

The bill was introduced to address specific problems experienced by licensed breeders within the State. They often have valuable birds, animals or eggs in their care and no recourse against cats who molest or kill them. The new draft made the owner or keeper of a domestic cat guilty of not controlling a nuisance cat if it kills or molests captive wild birds or animals owned by a licensed breeder. A \$50 to \$100 penalty was proposed for this violation as well as making the cat owner liable for damages and court costs.

The bill was indefinitely postponed in both the House and the Senate as the concerns were addressed in the recodification of the Animal Welfare Statutes. A provision of LD 811 provided that owners of animals inflicting damage on another's property be held liable for those damages.

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