

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
113TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE

MAY 1988

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Sen. R. Donald Twitchell
Sen. Henry W. Black

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Rep. Walter E. Whitcomb
Rep. Susan J. Pines

* Denotes Chair

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**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST & SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1988**

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 for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are indicated as follows::

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

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Secretaries: Charlene Brann, Janet Jean, Earl Knox, Valarie Parlin; Research Assistant Hartley Palleschi. Finally, Secretary Lorette Knox, Legal Assistant Carolyn Chick, and Research Assistant Robert Dunn had special responsibilities in the preparation of the overall document.

Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.

LD An Act to Provide for a State Trademark for Maine Products ND 2572
 2199

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
MAHANY	OTP-ND	
TARDY		
PARADIS J		
PINES		

SUMMARY
 Replaced By LD 2572

LD An Act to Improve the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund **PUBLIC**
2211 **754**
EMERGENCY

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
MAHANY	OTP-AM	H-639
TARDY		H-671 TARDY
PARADIS J		H-719 TARDY
THERIAULT		

SUMMARY

This bill will expand and enhance the loan review subcommittee of the Potato Marketing Improvement Committee, set the interest rate for state loans at 2% below the rate for general obligation bonds of the State, clarify eligibility for a loan through the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund and facilitate use of the funds by requiring the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to maintain an office for use in providing information and encouragement concerning the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund.

Committee Amendment A (H-639) eliminates the section which would have added farmers to the fund's loan review committee. It clarifies the intention of the Act to allow the use of the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund for the design, construction and operation of storage, packing and marketing facilities. It also clarifies that Potato Marketing Improvement Fund mortgages are assumable. Lastly, it requires that department rules be developed covering the purchase of existing structures, particularly rules that will ensure that such purchases are consistent with the purpose of the original legislation, which created the fund and its financing.

This amendment sets the interest rate for all loans, including current loans, at 5%.

The amendment strengthens the section regarding the requirement for an office in Aroostook County to service the fund. It requires that, if staffing of the office is contracted for, the contract be made by the managing agency, which is currently the Finance Authority of Maine.

Finally, the amendment removes the appropriation from the bill. The Aroostook County office is to be funded from money currently allocated from the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund.

House Amendment A (H-671) makes shippers, dealers and brokers share the responsibility with packers that any potatoes with which they are involved that are in Maine bags shall have been properly inspected. It also sets up a penalty structure designed to assure compliance.

House Amendment A (H-719) adds an emergency clause.

LD **An Act to Define Chemical Preservative and to Provide** **LV/WD**
2290 Alternative Labeling Requirements

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
CARROLL	LV/WD		
PERKINS			
MATTHEWS Z			

SUMMARY
Current state law requires labeling of foods bearing or containing chemical preservatives, but chemical preservative is not defined. The bill defined chemical preservative and provided for a system of posting in which fresh fruits and vegetables treated with chemical preservatives were identified and additional information would be made available on request. The bill was withdrawn following the public hearing and a work session.

LD **An Act to Establish Guidelines for Genetic Engineering** **PUBLIC**
2370 Experimentation **805**
EMERGENCY

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
WHITCOMB	OTP-AM		H-583
CLARK N			H-626 TARDY
PINES			

SUMMARY
The Commission on Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, established by this bill, would serve as a resource and repository for expertise and information; conduct and encourage research designed to further new and more extensive uses of the resources of the State, and to promote and encourage the advancement of research; evaluate and determine the adequacy of federal and state regulations; formulate and coordinate state policies; and assess potential risks to the public and the environment.

Committee Amendment A (H-583) requires the Governor to make his appointments by May 15, 1989, and to call the first meeting of the Commission by July 1, 1989; adds the duty of assessing the moral, ethical and social risks to the Commission's duties; requires a work plan from the Commission by January 15, 1989; sets back the date for the performance of the Commission's duties until April 15, 1989, and makes permanent staffing contingent on receipt of the recommendations of this report; puts the bill on an emergency basis in order to meet the new time schedule; and adds an appropriation for commission meetings.