# 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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## 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 Laurette 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.

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 2290 Alternative Labeling Requirements LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

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

805 EMERGENCY

2370 Experimentation

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SPONSOR(S) WHITCOMB CLARK N COMMITTEE OTP-AM

H-583

)IF AM

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.

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis ......page 8 Agriculture

Committee Amendment A (H-626) changes the dates for appointments to, and convening of, the Commission. It also changes from 1989 to 1990 the time when the commission assumes its powers and duties. Prior to that time it will be preparing a work plan for review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture.

LD An Act to Revise the Laws Protecting the Farmers' Right LV/WD 2377 to Farm

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

BLACK

LV/WD

SHERBURNE

PARENT

GOULD R R

### SUMMARY

This bill would render void all ordinances of local government that allow any farm or farm operation to be designated a nuisance. In addition, the bill would allow defendants who prevail in frivolous nuisance suits to be reimbursed for their expenses. The bill provides funding for a position to determine if generally accepted agricultural practices are being followed when complaints involving nuisances are received and to carry on other related duties.

This bill received a leave to withdraw with the understanding that a request for a study would be made to the Legislative Council. This request was turned down by the Council.

LD An Act to Extend the Uses of the Potato Marketing 2391 Improvement Fund

PUBLIC 727

2331 Improvement Educa

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

PINES OTP-AM

H-569

GLIDDEN

SPONSOR(S)

S-419 Z MATTHEWS

THERIAULT COLLINS

#### STIMMARY

This bill permits the use of interest earned on the cash balance of the fund established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 973 to be available for 3 distinct purposes. First, this interest would be available for direct grants to farmers for wells and related washing systems for those who presently have no such facilities. Second, the interest would be available to fund research grants for the purpose of assessing problems experienced with new and retrofitted storages. Third, the interest would be available to operate a gathering system for cull potatoes. These waste potatoes are generally sold to the starch plant in Caribou, but because of the cost constraints on transporting these potatoes, only farmers within 25 miles of Caribou can dispose of culls in this fashion. The gathering system would involve several central collection stations for various areas of the county to which farmers would haul culls.

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis ......page 9
Agriculture