# 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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Staff: John Knox, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy & Legal Analysis Room 101, State House Sta. 13 Augusta, ME 04333 (207) 289-1670

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# OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

ROOM 101/107/135 STATE HOUSE STATION 13 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333 TEL.: (207) 289-1670

### 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.

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.

An Act to Revise the Laws Protecting the Farmers' Right LD 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.

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

**PUBLIC** 

727

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

PINES

OTP-AM

H-569

GLIDDEN

S-419

THERIAULT COLLINS

Z MATTHEWS

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.

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Committee Amendment A (H-569) changes the use of grant money to deal with potato culls from a grant related to a specific use to funding a program for determining a use. It also adds a 1991 sunset provision to the bill and an allocation section to allocate the grant funds from the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund.

Committee Amendment A (S-419) reformats the allocation section to make it conform with standard practice. It also changes the sunset date of the bill from 1991 to 1990.

LD An Act to Regulate Marketing and Bargaining in the Maine LV/WD 2394 Blueberry Industry

REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE RANDALL

LV/WD

TAMMARO

MOHOLLAND

**FARREN** 

#### SUMMARY

This bill includes the blueberry industry in the Maine Agricultural Marketing Bargaining Act of 1973.

LD An Act to Require a Study of the Maine Blueberry Commission P & S 2412 130

SPONSOR (S)	COMMITTEE	REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED	
RANDALL	OTP-AM	MAJ	S-405	MAJ REP
TAMMARO	OTP-AM	MIN	S-530	PEARSON
FARREN				
MOHOLLAND				

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this bill is to provide equal representation for growers and processors on the Maine Blueberry Commission.

Committee Amendment A (S-405), the majority report, which was adopted sets up a subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture to study the organization of the Commission.

Committee Amendment B (S-406), the minority report, which was not adopted, would have added a representative from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to provide an uneven number of board members. It keeps the requirement of the original bill that the commission membership be split equally between processors and nonprocessors. Membership currently is weighted in favor of processors. This amendment also requires replacement of a member who no longer works in the section of the industry that he was appointed to represent.

The Senate Amendment (S-530) changes the status of the study from one authorized by law to one authorized by the Legislative Council.

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