

# 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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\* Denotes Chair

Staff: John Knox, Legislative Analyst

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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::*

<b>OTP</b>	<b>Ought to Pass</b>
<b>OTP-ND</b>	<b>Ought to Pass in New Draft</b>
<b>OTP-ND-NT</b>	<b>Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title</b>
<b>OTP-A</b>	<b>Ought to Pass as Amended</b>
<b>ONTP</b>	<b>Ought Not to Pass</b>
<b>LVWD</b>	<b>Leave to Withdraw</b>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<b>Indefinitely Postponed</b>

*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.

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

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u> <u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
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**      **PUBLIC**  
**2391**   **Improvement Fund**      **727**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u> <u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
PINES	OTP-AM	H-569
GLIDDEN		S-419    Z MATTHEWS
THERIAULT		
COLLINS		

**SUMMARY**

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.

