

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE

JULY 1989

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1989

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 for 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 abbreviated 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 Research Assistant Barbara McGinn, and secretaries: Charlene Brann, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

SPONSOR(S)

TARDY  
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COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-549

SUMMARY

The committee amendment replaced the bill, created significant changes in the Farmland Adjacency Law and established a transitional process between existing law and those changes.

The amendment repealed the existing Farmland Adjacency Law at the end of the next registration period and enacted a new Farmland Adjacency Law effective September 30, 1989. Registration periods occur between June 1st and June 15th in 1990 and 1991.

New provisions of the law:

Limit registration to land on which a crop is actually being produced with the use of agricultural chemicals and exclude Christmas tree farms and areas covered with non-crop vegetation from registration.

Establish a reduced setback distance of 100 feet that is measured from the edge of the crop-producing area.

Require land to be classified as farmland under the Farm and Open Space Tax Law before registration.

Establish a pre-registration process of review and certification by the local Soil and Water Conservation District.

Add a pre-registration notice to abutters, direct the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to develop abuttor notices which clarify what the abuttor can and can not do on land within the setback zone and clarify filing practices at county registry of deeds.

Provide that a variance may be issued by the municipal board of appeals if the 100 foot setback would make a lot existing prior to registration of the farmland unusable for residential purposes.

Ensure that all currently registered farmland must be requalified under the new provisions to remain registered as farmland.