

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE

JUNE 1990

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**One Hundred and Fourteenth Legislature
Second Regular Session**

**Joint Standing Committee
Bill Summaries**

June 1990

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. 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 or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond, 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.

LD 2130 **An Act to Purchase the Development Rights to Farmland**

INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)

MARSH
WHITCOMB
MCGOWAN

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-911

SUMMARY

The bill, as amended by the committee amendment, would have established an agricultural land preservation program to purchase the development rights of farms voluntarily offered by the landowner for consideration. Under this program, a 9 member board would have protected farmland from development for nonfarming uses by paying the landowner for the value of the development rights in return for permanent restrictions against nonagricultural activities. Development easements would have prohibited residential construction, mining, removal of top soil, or placing buildings on more than 5% of the land. Legislation requesting a \$15 million dollar bond issue to finance purchases of development easements was rejected. Public Law 1989, chapter 876 (LD 1945) included \$1 million for the Land for Maine's Future Board to acquire farmland or development rights to farmland.

LD 2146 **Resolve, to Establish Harness Racing Dates for 1990**

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)

TARDY

COMMITTEE REPORT

LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This resolve would have established racing dates for the harness racing industry for 1990 as they pertain to the extended pari-mutuel tracks.

LD 2147 **Resolve, Regarding Harness Racing**

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)

MARTIN J
MACOMBER
TWITCHELL
LORD

COMMITTEE REPORT

LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This resolve would have set pari-mutuel harness racing dates for Lewiston Raceway and Scarborough Downs.

LD 2181 **An Act to Amend the Maine Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1973 (Reported Pursuant to a Study Authorized by the Legislative Council)**

**PUBLIC 703
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-828

SUMMARY

The bill was the result of a study on the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act of 1973 that was authorized by the Legislative Council. The bill, as amended by the committee amendment, clarifies that a public member of the Maine Agricultural Bargaining Board may not have conflicting interests while serving on the board and enacts criteria for arbitrators to use in making their decisions on unresolved matters.

The amendment adds an emergency preamble and clause and deletes requirements that mediators issue a written report at the end of a mediation period to establish whether particular issues are submitted to arbitration.

LD 2182 An Act to Regulate the Handling of Manure

PUBLIC 836

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
NUTTING	OTP-AM	H-1033 TARDY
BERUBE		H-910
		H-946 TARDY
		S-565 KANY
		S-599 TWITCHELL

SUMMARY

The bill, as amended by the committee amendment, establishes the improper handling of manure as a nuisance. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources can investigate complaints, determine if generally accepted manure-handling practices are being followed and obtain an agreement with the person responsible for changes in manure handling practices when appropriate. If the person responsible for an alleged nuisance does not change unacceptable practices, the department can refer the matter to the Attorney General.

The amended bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to review and assess the impacts of proposed laws and rules on agricultural activities and present this assessment at public hearings on the proposals. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection is directed to regularly update the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources on proposed legislation or rules that may affect agricultural activity.

The House and Senate amendments place investigations of manure-handling nuisances under the requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedures Act and clarify that violations of water quality standards fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection.

LD 2206 An Act to Encourage Farming in Maine

**PUBLIC 672
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MAHANY	OTP-AM	H-779
LISNIK		
COLLINS		
PEARSON		

SUMMARY

The bill, as amended by the committee amendment, makes new farmers eligible for reduced interest rate loans under the linked investment program for agriculture.