

# 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  
OTP-ND  
OTP-ND-NT  
OTP-A  
ONTP  
LVWD  
INDEF PP

Ought to Pass  
Ought to Pass in New Draft  
Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title  
Ought to Pass as Amended  
Ought Not to Pass  
Leave to Withdraw  
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.

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**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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.