

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE

MAY 1992

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**MAY 1992**

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 volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| PUBLIC XXX                 | Chapter # of enacted Public Law                              |
| P&S XXX                    | Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law                   |
| RESOLVE XXX                | Chapter # of enacted Resolve                                 |
| CON RES XXX                | Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses |
| EMERGENCY                  | Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days                 |
| CARRIED OVER               | Bill carried over to Special Session                         |
| ONTP                       | Ought Not to Pass report accepted                            |
| LVWD                       | Leave to Withdraw report accepted                            |
| INDEF PP                   | Bill Indefinitely Postponed                                  |
| FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT | Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote                        |
| DIED BETWEEN BODIES        | House and Senate disagree; bill died                         |
| CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE  | Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree           |
| VETO SUSTAINED             | Legislature filed to override Governor's Veto                |
| UNSIGNED                   | Not signed by Governor within 10 days                        |
| DIED ON ADJOURNMENT        | Action incomplete when session ended; bill died              |

These summaries were 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, especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

## Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture

### **LD 101** An Act Amending the Potato Branding Laws

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
TARDY  
TWITCHELL

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill proposed amending the enforcement section of the potato branding laws. Currently, a person who refuses access to an inspector is guilty of a violation. As amended, refusal of access would not have been a separate violation. An administrative search warrant could still have been obtained under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 13.

This bill would have also prohibited the inspection of potatoes in transit.

### **LD 1704** An Act to Limit the Use of Biosynthetic Bovine Somatotropin until More Extensive Human and Animal Safety Studies Are Completed

PUBLIC 725

**SPONSOR(S)**  
WHITCOMB  
NUTTING  
SPEAR

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM MAJ  
ONTP MIN

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-897 MAJ REP  
H-992 NUTTING

#### **SUMMARY**

The original bill would have prohibited the sale and distribution for human consumption of milk products or meat products produced by cows that had been administered the growth hormone bovine somatotropin, commonly known as BST.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-897) replaced the original bill. It restricts the use of biosynthetic bovine somatotropin, known as BST, to medical and research purposes. It prohibits anyone except a veterinarian or a supervised veterinarian's assistant from administering biosynthetic BST. The presence of biosynthetic BST on a dairy farm results in loss of the farm's operating permit if the restrictions on biosynthetic BST have been violated.

The Committee amendment provided for repeal of these restrictions on January 1, 1993.

House Amendment "D" (H-992) adds a definition of research to the laws concerning biosynthetic bovine somatotropin, or BST. The amendment requires a veterinarian administering BST for research purposes to submit documentation on the research to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and requires the department to provide copies of such notices to dealers. The amendment also extends the repeal date to February 1, 1993.