

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE**

**AUGUST 1991**

**Staff:**  
*Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101, State House Station 13  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 289-1670*

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STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS  
ROOM 101/107/135  
STATE HOUSE STATION 13  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333  
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1991**

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 right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

<b>PUBLIC XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<b>P&amp;S XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<b>RESOLVE XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<b>CON RES XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<b>CARRIED OVER</b>	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
<b>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>ONTP</b>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<b>LVWD</b>	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<b>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</b>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<b>VETO SUSTAINED</b>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<b>UNSIGNED</b>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<b>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</b>	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

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, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT  
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

**SUMMARY**

This bill contained the recommendations of the Commission to Study the Harness Racing Industry. The bill proposed to do the following:

1. Remove the requirement that State Harness Racing Commission members have geographic and political party representation and allow all but one member to have industry affiliation;
2. Provide for a full-time, salaried chair to be appointed by the Governor in salary range 90;
3. Broaden the Maine Administrative Procedure Act conflict-of-interest provision to require that persons with conflict not participate in a matter before the commission;
4. Give the commission authority to hire its own employees, subject to Civil Service Law;
5. Require that the commission contract with, pay and assign presiding and associate track judges and that the commission be reimbursed by the tracks and fairs for the per diem of those judges assigned to them;
6. Require that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources transmit the commission's budget as submitted;
7. Change the recipient of the commission's annual report from the Governor to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources with a copy to the Governor, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council;
8. Raise permitted annual fees for conducting racing from \$10 per week to \$10 per week or \$100, whichever is greater;
9. Raise permitted annual fees for participating in any other licensed racing activity from \$10 to not more than \$100;
10. Require, within the limits, that fees be sufficient to cover the expenses of the licensing program;
11. Require that all licensees be provided with a booklet of racing laws and rules;
12. Raise the maximum fine that the commission is authorized to levy in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 279-B, from \$100 to \$1,000; and
13. Require that the commission honor license action imposed by other states.

LD 944, "An Act to Permit Off-track Betting", as amended by House Amendment D (H-672) to Committee Amendment A (H-541) includes the provisions of LD 402 with the changes listed below.

1. The requirement that State Harness Racing Commission members have geographic representation is retained.
2. The full-time chair position begins on July 1, 1992.

3. The commission may delegate its authority to levy fines and suspensions for particular violations or classes of violations. The commission may delegate this authority to its executive director until July 1, 1992. After July 1, 1992, the commission may delegate this authority to its chair.

See LD 944 under bill summaries for Joint Standing Committee on Legal Affairs.

**LD 469      An Act Setting Up the Office of Farmland Development Rights      LV/WD**

SPONSOR(S) MARSH WHITCOMB MCCORMICK ADAMS	COMMITTEE REPORT LV/WD	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed the establishment of an Office of Farmland Development Rights within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to purchase and coordinate the purchase of development rights on farmland. The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources would have been required to present an operating plan and proposed budget for the Office to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture by January 1, 1992.

**LD 568      An Act to Appropriate Emergency Funds for the Maine Potato Breeding Program      INDEF PP**

SPONSOR(S) MAHANY PEARSON PARADIS J MACBRIDE	COMMITTEE REPORT OTP-AM	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED H-193
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**SUMMARY**

This bill would have appropriated funds from the General Fund to the Maine Potato Breeding Program. Committee Amendment "A" (H-193) added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 605      An Act to Provide Administrative Oversight of Organic Food Certification in Maine      PUBLIC 57**

SPONSOR(S) SPEAR NUTTING TITCOMB EMERSON	COMMITTEE REPORT OTP      MAJ ONTP      MIN	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED H-63      TARDY
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**SUMMARY**

This bill requires organizations offering organic food certification services in Maine to provide the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources with information on certification standards. This bill also authorizes the department to enact rules and conduct investigations to enforce current law. House Amendment "A" (H-63) added a fiscal note to the bill.