

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

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**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:

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

An Act to Remove Sunset Provisions on Laws Relating to the Labeling of Produce, Potato Variety Labeling and Blueberry Theft

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLARK N	OTP-AM	S-225
NUTTING		S-336 CLARK N
PINES		
CAHILL P		

SUMMARY

This bill as originally drafted proposed to reenact statutes regarding labeling of fresh produce similar to statutes due for repeal July 1, 1991. Regarding post-harvest treatments, the bill differed from the current law in that it would have mandated a minimum sign size, that the sign advise consumers of the availability of more specific information, and that large stores be required to provide specific information upon request. Current law (PL 1989, c. 339) allowed all stores 48 hours to respond to requests for information identifying specific treatments used and produce treated.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-225) replaced the original bill. The amendment provided for continuance of current laws by repealing 2 sunset provisions. The amendment added an emergency preamble, an emergency clause, an appropriations section, and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-336) to Committee Amendment "A" changes the title of the bill and repeals additional sunset provisions. The sunset on the potato variety labeling program is repealed. The sunset on laws enacted to reduce the theft of blueberries is repealed. Both had sunset dates of July 1, 1991.

The Senate amendment also requires that the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources institute an educational program under the country of origin labeling laws only if funds are available within the reserves of the department. The amendment deletes the appropriation and replaces the fiscal note.

LD 1704 An Act to Prohibit the Sale and Distribution of Certain Milk Products**CARRIED OVER**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
WHITCOMB		
NUTTING		
SPEAR		

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to prohibit the sale and distribution of milk products or meat products that may enter the human food chain produced by cows that have been administered the growth hormone bovine somatotropin, commonly known as BST.

The bill allows use of BST in research programs after one year from the effective date of approval of BST by the federal Food and Drug Administration and provides a mechanism by which the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources may approve the use of BST after one year from approval by the federal Food and Drug Administration and on the advice of the Commission on Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering. The committee requested that this bill be carried over to the second session. The federal Food and Drug Administration is expected to make its decision on approval of BST within the year.