

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
116TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE

MAY 1994

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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**MAY 1994**

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number, 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*

*P&S XXX*

*RESOLVE XXX*

*CON RES XXX*

*EMERGENCY*

*ONTP*

*INDEF PP*

*FAILED ENACTMENT*

*FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT*

*FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*

*DIED BETWEEN BODIES*

*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*

*VETO SUSTAINED*

*UNSIGNED*

*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*

*Chapter # of enacted Public Law*

*Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*

*Chapter # of enacted Resolve*

*Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*

*Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*

*Ought Not to Pass report accepted*

*Bill Indefinitely Postponed*

*Bill failed to get majority vote*

*Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*

*Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*

*House & Senate disagree; bill died*

*Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*

*Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

*Not signed by Governor within 10 days*

*Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If you have any suggestions or comments on the summaries, please let us know.

5581LHS

## Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture

**LD 664**

### An Act to Amend the Authority of the State Harness Racing Commission to Contract for Certain Services

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
TARDY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill would have repealed the law authorizing the State Harness Racing Commission to retain the services of track judges and would have authorized racetracks and fairs to hire their own judges.

**LD 1588**

### An Act to Provide for Greater Efficiency within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

PUBLIC 657

**SPONSOR(S)**  
TARDY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-944  
H-981 TARDY

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill would have moved administration of the returnable container law, know as the "bottle bill" from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to the Maine Waste Management Agency. The bill would also have required the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to study consolidation of all food inspection functions into the department and to plan for improvements in the department's food inspection program.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-944) replaces the bill with changes to the animal welfare laws. Dog licensing laws are amended as follows. Municipalities will not issue new dog tags each year. A dog will get a new tag only if the old tag is lost or the dog is moved to a different municipality. Stickers will be issued each year to indicate that the license fee has been paid. A dog would not be required to wear a dog tag when on its owner's premises or off the owner's premises while hunting, in training or in exhibition, but the owner must be able to show proof of licensure and rabies vaccination immediately on request. Municipal clerks and dog recorders must make a report to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources on department-approved forms of all licenses issued and fees received.

The amendment requires a person who finds and takes control of a dog to take that dog to the municipally designated shelter in the municipality where the dog is found, or to the dog's owner, if known, and prohibits an animal shelter from giving away or selling a dog to a research facility. The amendment also defines "stray" as meaning "off the owner's premises and not under the control of any person."

The amendment requires animal shelters, kennels and pet shops to keep records of the sale of all animals, not just dogs, and clarifies that breeding kennels, pet shops and boarding kennels are subject to department rules.

The amendment defines "animal shelter" to include all shelters and humane societies, changes the fee for an animal shelter license from \$10 for nonprofit and \$25 for others to \$20 for all shelters and provides a penalty for operating a shelter without a license. Finally, the amendment changes the definition of breeding kennel to include kennels with 30 dogs, instead of 12 dogs as set out in current law.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-981) strikes out that part of the committee amendment that changes the definition of breeding kennel.