

# 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

**LD 1611**

**An Act to Adjust the Dates for Distributions from the State Harness Racing Commission**

PUBLIC 646  
EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**  
TARDY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-925

**SUMMARY**

Under current law, distributions from the State Harness Racing Commission to racetracks to supplement purses are apportioned based on days actually raced and are made at the end of the year in which the racing that was used to compute the distributions took place. The bill requires these payments to be made in 3 equal installments during the year, with the first 2 installments made based on assigned racing dates. The final installment would be adjusted to reflect days actually raced.

Under current law, distributions from the State Harness Racing Commission to commercial racetracks that provide simulcast transmission of live racing within the State are apportioned based on wagering of the previous year. With the exception of the first year, no distribution date is specified in the law. This bill requires that distributions be made 3 times a year to reflect the amounts wagered that year up to the date of each payment.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-925) replaces the bill. It alters the method of distributing purse supplement money to provide that wagers are distributed based on the number of days a licensee is open for wagering, not on the number of days the licensee conducts live racing, and provides for 3 payments during the calendar year instead of one payment at the end of the year. The amendment also changes the method of paying purse supplements for tracks that originate simulcast races by basing the distribution on wagers placed on those simulcasts in the year of payment rather than the previous year, and providing for 3 payments during the year.

**LD 1663**

**An Act to Allow the Growth and Sale of Cultivated Ginseng in Maine**

PUBLIC 548

**SPONSOR(S)**  
NORTON

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-761  
H-824 TARDY

**SUMMARY**

Because trade in wild American ginseng is regulated by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, federal law requires that the export of ginseng to other states and internationally be regulated by a state certification program. The bill requires persons who buy ginseng for resale to be registered with the department as a ginseng dealer and requires persons who sell ginseng to be licensed by the department. The bill also requires the department to establish a procedure to certify ginseng for export.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-761) deletes language prohibiting the harvesting of ginseng, clarifies that only cultivated ginseng may be certified for export, establishes a nonlapsing dedicated account for fees collected under the chapter and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-824) adds an allocation section.

**LD 1670**

**An Act to Amend the Harness Racing Laws**

VETO SUSTAINED

**SPONSOR(S)**  
ALIBERTI

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

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-1003 TARDY  
H-1095 TARDY  
H-948