

# 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

**SUMMARY**

The bill would have provided that notice of an off-track betting (OTB) license application must be given to commercial racetracks within 50 miles only for the initial application, deleted the requirement that wagering at an OTB be conducted in an area segregated from the restaurant at which the facility is located, and eliminated restrictions on where a person under age 18 could stand provided the person is not allowed to place a wager. The bill would also have allowed an OTB to present a simulcast at the same time live racing is occurring in the state, altered the requirement for an OTB to carry simulcasts of live racing from within Maine, made minor adjustments to distributions to assure that they add up to 100.00%, granted a portion of the funds that are now used for capital improvements at racetracks to be used for capital improvements at OTBs, and redistributed to all live racing licensees wagers that currently go to only licensees who originate simulcast races.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-948) replaced the bill. It would have established application fees for new and renewal off-track betting licenses, required the State Harness Racing Commission to notify municipal officers of a renewal application and allow municipal officers to comment on the application. The amendment also would have clarified how mileage is to be measured, prohibited simulcasting at an off-track betting facility when commercial live racing is being conducted within 35 miles, unless the licensee permits the simulcast, and made minor adjustments to the distribution of commissions to ensure that distributions add up to the correct number. The amendment also provided for a person who purchases a licensed facility to apply to continue off-track betting at that facility if that person meets certain criteria, and authorized the commission to include conditions in all licenses it issues.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "D" (H-1003) would have permitted operation of an off-track betting facility at a Class A restaurant/lounge and at a facility contiguous to a Class A restaurant or Class A restaurant/lounge that is connected by an internal doorway.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "F" (H-1095) would have required the Maine Harness Racing Commission to publish notice of a deadline for accepting applications for an off-track betting license and to award a license within 60 days of the application deadline. The amendment would also have removed reference to adverse impact as the grounds for objection by a commercial racetrack to an off-track betting facility.

The amendment would have prohibited an existing off-track betting facility from objecting to the location of a new facility that is within 50 miles of a commercial racetrack, unless the proposed facility is within 15 miles of the existing off-track betting facility.

The amendment also specified the reasons for which the commission may refuse to renew an off-track betting facility license, provided for suspension or revocation of a license and provided for a portion of General Fund revenues attributable to pari-mutuel wagering to be dedicated to the use of the Maine Harness Racing Commission if the wagering total in any year exceeded \$52,000,000.

**LD 1676**

**An Act to Change the Membership of the Maine Pull Events Commission**

PUBLIC 549

**SPONSOR(S)**  
CROSS

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-778

**SUMMARY**

The bill would have replaced the Maine Draft Horse and Ox Association ox puller appointee with a Pine Tree Ox Association ox puller appointee, to reflect recent changes in the makeup of the various associations interested in pulling events.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-778) increases the membership of the Pull Events Commission from 8 members to 9 members, permits the Pine Tree Ox Association to appoint a member, and deletes reference to specific qualifications of appointees.