

# 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 1717 An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to Potatoes**

PUBLIC 699  
EMERGENCY

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
TARDY	OTP-AM	H-1059 H-1096 TARDY

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have established the legal authority for the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to require inspection for specific grades of consumer packs of Maine potatoes and required inspection of all U.S. #1 packages of Maine potatoes for the current shipping season and established sanctions for violations.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1059) replaces the bill. It increases the fines for violation of the potato branding laws and subjects a person with 3 or more violations in a shipping season to mandatory inspections for a period of one year.

The amendment authorizes the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund to sell or assign up to \$2,000,000 of its loans to the Finance Authority of Maine in return for funds to be used to make new loans. The amendment also requires the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the electric utilities in Aroostook County to explore development of a special utility rate for new processors of off-grade potatoes.

Finally, the amendment appropriates funds for the State Police to enforce the potato branding laws and adds a fiscal note.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1096) establishes a Commission to Study Potato Quality Issues. The amendment also strikes the appropriation section of the committee amendment and replaces it with an allocation section and adds a new fiscal note.

**LD 1848 Resolve, Concerning the Licensure of Off-track Betting Facilities** ONTP

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
TARDY	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This resolve would have placed a moratorium on the issuance of off-track betting facility licenses by the State Harness Racing Commission and required the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture to develop and establish through legislation criteria for issuing off-track betting facility licenses when there is more than one applicant within the same market area.

**LD 1849 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Potato Board** PUBLIC 561

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
	OTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill changes the limit on terms for executive council membership on the Maine Potato Board from 3 consecutive terms to 5 consecutive terms.