

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 1855 An Act to Strengthen the Laws Governing Harness Racing

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

KERR

COMMITTEE REPORT

ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

The bill would have revised the criminal laws relating to harness racing by defining and providing penalties for 11 crimes, including possession of drugs, bribing, and administering a foreign substance or device to a horse with the intent of impeding or increasing its speed, endurance, health or condition.

LD 1870 An Act to Allow the Sale of Irradiated Food in Maine

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

BALDACCI

COMMITTEE REPORT

ONTP

MAJ

OTP-AM

MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This bill would have repealed the ban on the sale of irradiated food.

The minority report of the committee would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1883 An Act to Promote the Quality of Maine Dairy ProductsPUBLIC 663
EMERGENCY**SPONSOR(S)**

SPEAR

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-1030 TARDY

H-950

SUMMARY

This bill would have required persons manufacturing, selling or distributing biosynthetic bovine somatotropin, or "BST," to obtain a license and pay a fee. The bill would also prohibit the free distribution of BST to any person who has not signed a prior written acceptance of the distribution and permit milk dealers to require up to 100 days' notice before BST is used in producing their milk product.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-950) replaces the bill. It provides that, if the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources adopts rules permitting use of the Maine certification trademark on milk or milk products, the initial rules must include limitations on the use of milk from cows that have been treated with recombinant bovine somatotropin, or rbST. The department may add other qualifications as well to the initial rules, and may amend the rules at any time to discontinue rbST use as a factor in qualifying for the trademark. The amendment authorizes the department to inspect dairy farms and dairy herds to ensure compliance with the standards for use of the trademark by the dealer, provided the department has received written consent to the inspections.

The amendment also amends the method of setting minimum wholesale milk prices, increases the rate of the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Tax, requires milk producers to notify dairies they sell to if they are using rbST and the dealer is using the trademark, decreases the percentage of the tax that goes to fund the department and provides for use of that money, and requires the Department of Human Services to promote the use of Maine products in its use of additional funds that are made available as a result of the increased tax. The amendment also removes the requirement that the balance of the account that the department may use to promote goods produced in Maine must be redeposited in the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund. The amendment also adds a fiscal note and allocation section to the bill.