

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	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
P&S XXX	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
RESOLVE XXX	Chapter # of enacted Resolve
CON RES XXX	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass report accepted
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
FAILED ENACTMENT	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
VETO SUSTAINED	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto
UNSIGNED	Not signed by Governor within 10 days
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	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

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
KERR	ONTP	

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
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SPONSOR(S)	COMMIT	IEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BALDACCI	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	

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 Products PUBLIC
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EMERGENCY

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED	
SPEAR	ÚTR-AM	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.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1030) requires the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to adopt rules for use of the certification trademark on milk and milk products, rather than leaving adoption as an option.

LD 1925 An Act to Amend the Equine Licensing Laws

PUBLIC 650 EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
TARDY	OTP-AM	H–926

SUMMARY

This bill would eliminate mandatory licensing of boarding stables and commercial riding facilities. This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to establish fees and criteria for an optional certification procedure for boarding stables and commercial riding facilities and directs the department to develop a plan to organize and promote equine activity throughout the State.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-926) replaces the bill. As in the bill, the amendment changes the mandatory licensing process for commercial riding facilities and persons who board equines for payment to a voluntary certification process. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources would establish criteria for the certification and must submit proposed criteria to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture matters at least 6 months before they become effective. The amendment also repeals the permitting process and the licensing and permit fees. The amendment requires the department to assist the equine industry in developing a plan to organize and promote equine activity and changes the effective date of the law requiring contracts to include a statement of the inherent risks of equine activities.

LD 1928 An Act to Require Labeling on Genetically Engineered Food ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMIT	TEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
TITCOMB	ONTP	MAJ	
HEESCHEN	OTP-AM	MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill would have required the labeling by retailers of genetically engineered food or food organisms and would have required manufacturers and distributors of genetically engineered food to provide information on delivery tickets and invoices of genetically engineered food or food organisms. The minority amendment would have refined the definition of genetically engineered food or food organisms.

LD 1961 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Dairy PUBLIC 689 and Nutrition Council and the Maine Dairy Promotion Board

SPONSOR(S)	ONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED	
	OTP-AM	H-1084	TARDY	
		H-861		

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Maine Dairy Promotion Board and the Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council to appoint an executive director. Under this bill, staff hired by the board and council are exempt from the Civil Service Law.