

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

AUGUST 1995

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

AUGUST 1995

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing 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 publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, is helpful in determining to which committee any particular bill was referred.

In this document, 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 categories of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If more detailed information is needed on a bill, contact the committee analyst.

5581LHS

LD 922**An Act to Establish an Emissions Reduction Credit Trading Program**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
GOULD**COMMITTEE REPORT**
ONTP**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED****SUMMARY**

Under the federal Clean Air Act, a company that proposes to site a major new source or expand an existing source in an ozone nonattainment area must obtain offsets of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxide. Offsets are reductions in existing emissions from either the plant being expanded or another plant in the area. Because this State is part of the ozone transport region, this offset requirement applies statewide.

This bill would have directed the Department of Environmental Protection to develop rules that provide sources in the State with the maximum ability and flexibility to create, preserve and use emission reduction credits for offsets as allowed under federal law.

LD 928**An Act to Encourage Compliance with Environmental Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection**

PUBLIC 234

SPONSOR(S)
POULIN**COMMITTEE REPORT**
OTP-AM**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
H-285**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to prohibit the department from initiating an enforcement action against a small business for violation of environmental laws if the violation: did not result in substantial environmental damage, was identified as a result of the business' voluntary participation in the department's technical assistance program and was corrected within 90 days of being identified.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-285) replaces the bill. Instead of specifying an enforcement policy for violations identified by Department of Environmental Protection staff while rendering assistance under the technical assistance program, the amendment requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to develop a written policy for determining when to forego civil penalties for those identified violations by a small business that seeks assistance under the program.

LD 933**An Act to Clarify and Provide Municipal Authority to Implement Comprehensive Waste Management Services**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
RICHARDSON**COMMITTEE REPORT**
ONTP**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED****SUMMARY**

This bill would have clarified municipal authority to award exclusive or nonexclusive franchises to perform solid waste collection, transportation and other handling tasks and would have authorized municipalities to assess service charges for the handling of solid waste generated in the municipality.