

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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 1053 An Act to Promote the Collection of Data Concerning the Importing and Exporting of Forest Products

PUBLIC 242

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LONGLEY	OTP-AM	S-184

SUMMARY

The forest practices laws require the Director of the Bureau of Forestry to develop recommendations for state agencies and private landowners to address needs that are identified in assessments of the state's demand for forest and related resources in Maine. The bill would have prohibited the exportation of logs and wood chips from Maine if logs and wood chips are involved in the Director's recommendations.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-184) replaces the bill and changes its title. The amendment requires notification to the Maine Forest Service of the exporting or importing of forest products. It requires an importer, exporter or designated agent to retain a copy of the notification.

The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1064 An Act to Increase the Amount of Reimbursement to Animal Shelters Housing Stray Dogs

PUBLIC 268

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BUSTIN	OTP-AM	S-209

SUMMARY

The bill would have increased the amount of reimbursement to an animal shelter housing stray dogs from \$2.50 to \$5.00.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-209) raises from \$2.50 to \$4 the amount an animal shelter receives from the Animal Welfare Fund for accepting stray dogs for a required period of 6 days.

LD 1100 An Act to Provide Road Maintenance to Baxter State Park

P & S 44

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLARK	OTP-AM	H-207
HALL		S-372 STEVENS A
JACQUES		

SUMMARY

This bill appropriates additional funds for the maintenance of roads in Baxter State Park.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-207) would have increased from \$60,000 to \$80,000 the amount of money the Department of Transportation can annually spend on the maintenance of roads in Baxter State Park. (This portion of Committee Amendment "A" was struck by Senate Amendment "A".)

It deletes a portion of law that allows the department to spend \$20,000 on Baxter State Park road maintenance for every gate that provides public ingress and egress to the park, up to a maximum of \$60,000 annually.

The amendment also changes the title of the bill and adds a fiscal note.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-372) deletes a provision in Committee Amendment "A" that would have increased from \$60,000 to \$80,000 the amount of money the Department of Transportation can annually spend on the maintenance of roads in Baxter State Park.

**LD 1111 An Act to Enable Small Farm Owners to Process and Sell Foods
 They Produce**

PUBLIC 331

SPONSOR(S)
HEESCHEN

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-537

SUMMARY

The bill would have encouraged on-farm production of agricultural products by clarifying what farm activities are of sufficient import to be subject to state licensing and inspection.

This bill would have clarified the current practice of allowing on-farm sales of milk, placed a monthly limit on those sales before licensing and permitted the farmer to let potential customers know that the product is available for sale.

The bill would have also allowed the manufacture of hard cheeses under existing federal guidelines.

The bill would have also exempted from the definition of "food establishments," subject to licensing requirements, certain sales of honey, maple syrup and produce when these products are sold directly to the final consumer.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-537) replaces the original bill. It expands the list of establishments exempted from licensing as a food establishment to include establishments engaged in the washing, cleaning or sorting of whole produce, provided the produce remains in essentially the same condition as when harvested and any packaging is not by a vacuum packaging process or a modified atmosphere packaging process. It also exempts from licensing those establishments that are engaged in the drying of single herbs that are generally recognized as safe under federal regulations. The single herbs may be packaged for sale, provided that packaging is not by a vacuum packaging process or a modified atmosphere packaging process.

The amendment also allows the Maine Blueberry Commission to fix the salary of the commission's staff and executive director, subject to approval by the Governor.

The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1130 An Act to Require Retailers Stores to Label Foods That Have
 Been Previously Frozen as Previously Frozen**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
DAGGETT

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The bill would have required a retailer to label previously frozen foods as being previously frozen.