

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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*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy
Sen. Willis A. Lord
Sen. Judy A. Paradis

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Rep. Ruel P. Cross
Rep. Richard Kneeland
Rep. Edward L. Dexter

Staff:

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*Denotes Chair



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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 1469 An Act to Reinstate the Maine Meat Inspection Act

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)
KILKELLY**COMMITTEE REPORT****AMENDMENTS ADOPTED****SUMMARY**

The bill would reenact, with updated language, the Maine Meat Inspection Act that was repealed in 1980. It would provide for state inspection and regulation of the slaughter, processing, labeling, sale and transportation of cattle, sheep, swine, goats or horses, mules or other equines in intrastate commerce.

LD 1489 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Potato Quality Issues

PUBLIC 298

SPONSOR(S)**COMMITTEE REPORT**
OTP-AM**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
H-408**SUMMARY**

The bill establishes the legal authority for the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to require through rulemaking inspection for specific grades of consumer packs of Maine potatoes. The commissioner must initiate rulemaking to require inspection at the request of the Maine Potato Board.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-408) adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1505 Resolve, to Identify Priorities for Public Acquisition of Interests in Land

ONTP

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

The resolve would have established a process to identify priorities for the acquisition of land or interests in land. The priorities established would have enabled acquisition programs such as the Land for Maine's Future Program, the Forest Legacy Program and other public and private conservation initiatives to function in a coordinated manner.

LD 1540 An Act Concerning Potato Blight Eradication and the Disposal of Cull PotatoesPUBLIC 261
EMERGENCY**SPONSOR(S)**
KNEELAND**COMMITTEE REPORT**
OTP-AM**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
H-418**SUMMARY**

The bill makes it a civil violation to maintain cull potatoes and cull potato piles between June 10th and October 1st of each year. It also gives the Commissioner of Agricultural, Food and Rural Resources or the commissioner's designee the authority to inspect farms to determine whether cull potatoes and cull potato piles are being maintained illegally. It also gives the commissioner authority to remove illegal cull potatoes and cull potato piles and recover the costs of removal and disposal from the landowner. A forfeiture for each violation is set at \$1,000 and \$200 for each additional day. A Potato Cull Removal Fund is established to pay the expenses of potato cull removal.