

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**JUNE 1996**

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Sen. W. John Hathaway  
Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin*

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**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

***Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees  
June 1996***

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

develop a program to reduce the size and number of used tire stockpiles in the State. It also requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to promote beneficial reuse of used tires by fostering a favorable business climate for businesses currently assisting in the processing of waste tires and by providing for the introduction of viable new technology to convert waste tires to commodities.

Chapter 578 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 29, 1996.

**LD 1659**

**An Act to Allow Municipalities and Regions to Include Beneficial Use of Waste Originated in Their Jurisdiction As Credit in Demonstrating Recycling Progress**

PUBLIC 552

Sponsors(s)  
GOULD

Committee Report  
OTP-AM MAJ  
ONTP MIN

Amendments Adopted  
H-739

Current law categorizes incineration of waste as recycling only if the waste is burned as a fuel source substitute in industrial boilers; the waste material would have otherwise been stockpiled or placed in a landfill; and the State Planning Office has determined that there is no reasonably available recycling market for the waste.

LD 1659 proposed to remove those limitations on the classification of incineration as recycling and to clarify that individual municipalities and regions may take recycling credit for this use of waste in determining whether they have made reasonable progress toward the state's 50% recycling goal. Current law credits incineration as recycling only in calculating the statewide recycling percentage.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-739)** replaced the bill. It proposed to allow municipalities to count certain types of incineration as recycling in determining whether the municipality is making reasonable progress toward the State recycling goal. It proposed to add incineration of waste plastics and waste wood and incineration at waste-to-energy plants to the list of activities counted as recycling. It proposed to retain some of the conditions under which incineration counts as recycling. The State Planning Office would have to determine that no reasonably available market exists for the waste, and the waste must be burned as a substitute for fossil fuel, although the fossil fuel need not be the primary fuel in the incinerator.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 552 allows a municipality to count certain types of incineration as recycling in determining whether the municipality is making reasonable progress toward the State recycling goal. It also adds incineration of waste plastics and waste wood and incineration at waste-to-energy plants to the list of activities counted as recycling. It retains some of the conditions under which incineration counts as recycling. The State Planning Office would have to determine that no reasonably available market exists for the waste, and the waste must be burned as a substitute for fossil fuel, although the fossil fuel need not be the primary fuel in the incinerator.