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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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:

CARRIED OVER... _Bill carried over to Second Session_
CON RES XXX............................. _Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses_
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE................ _Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died_
DIED BETWEEN BODIES... _House & Senate disagree; bill died_
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.................................._Action incomplete when session ended; bill died_
EMERGENCY.._Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days_
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT...................................._Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote_
FAILED ENACTMENT ...._Bill failed to get majority vote_
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT....................._Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote_
INDEF PP ...._Bill Indefinitely Postponed_
ONTP.._Ought Not To Pass report accepted_
P&S XXX..._Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law_
PUBLIC XXX..._Chapter # of enacted Public Law_
RESOLVE XXX... _Chapter # of finally passed Resolve_
UNSIGNED ...._Not signed by Governor within 10 days_
VETO SUSTAINED...................................._Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto_

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.

LD 1671   **An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Revolving Loan**   PUBLIC 564
          Fund for Wastewater Facilities   EMERGENCY

Sponsors(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MITCHELL EH	OTP-AM	H-733

LD 1671 proposed to amend the current law regarding the revolving loan fund for wastewater facilities to allow the fund to be used for any projects authorized under the federal Clean Water Act and for remediation of municipal landfills that affect groundwater.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-733) proposed to add a provision to the bill clarifying that the Department of Environmental Protection, in prioritizing municipal projects for financing under the revolving loan fund, must consider the availability of cost-effective private sector alternatives to those municipal projects. The amendment also proposed to correct a reference to federal law and to make the bill an emergency measure.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 564 amends the current law regarding the revolving loan fund for wastewater facilities to allow the fund to be used for any projects authorized under the federal Clean Water Act and for remediation of municipal landfills that affect groundwater. It also clarifies that the Department of Environmental Protection, in prioritizing municipal projects for financing under the revolving loan fund, must consider the availability of cost-effective private sector alternatives to those municipal projects.

Chapter 564 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 25, 1996.

LD 1672   **An Act to Amend Certain Laws Administered by the Department**   PUBLIC 642
          of Environmental Protection   EMERGENCY

Sponsors(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
GOULD	OTP-AM	MIN	H-858
	OTP-AM	MAJ	

LD 1672, which is the omnibus bill submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection, proposed to:

1.   Enable the Board of Environmental Protection to open existing air emission licenses prior to their expiration dates for cause, as defined in federal regulations;
2.   Extend the repeal date of the Maine Environmental Protection Fund fee schedule to 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature;
3.   Allow the limited use of copper compounds and other algicides in situations where lake restoration technologies have been tried and no additional restoration programs are available;
4.   Reword current law to provide that, when the parent of a corporation changes but the corporation itself remains intact, no license transfers are required;
5.   Repeal the existing hydrocarbon standard for ambient air;