

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**JUNE 1996**

***MEMBERS:***

*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy, Chair*

*Sen. Willis A. Lord*

*Sen. Judy A. Paradis*

*Rep. Robert W. Spear, Chair*

*Rep. Marge L. Kilkelly*

*Rep. Douglas J. Ahearne*

*Rep. Clyde A. Hichborn*

*Rep. Thomas M. Tyler*

*Rep. Donald A. Strout*

*Rep. Ruel P. Cross*

*Rep. Richard Kneeland*

*Rep. Edward L. Dexter*

*Rep. Robert E. Pendleton, Jr.*

***Staff:***

*John G. Kelley, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-1670*



**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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.

This bill also proposed that a person who sets an arson forest fire commits a Class A crime.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-504)** proposed to establish a process and conditions under which out-of-door fires and the use of charcoal or gas grills at private licensed camping facilities and certain public camping facilities may be exempt from a fire ban proclamation issued by the Governor. The public camping facilities are those under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and the Baxter State Park Authority. The amendment proposed to establish penalties for people who violate the conditions at exempt facilities. It also proposed to strike the Class A crime for arson forest fire. In addition, the amendment proposed to provide the Governor the authority to exempt from a fire ban human activities and out-of-door fires that do not create a significant forest fire threat.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 586 establishes a process and conditions under which out-of-door fires and the use of charcoal or gas grills at private licensed camping facilities and certain public camping facilities may be exempt from a fire ban proclamation issued by the Governor. The public camping facilities are those under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and the Baxter State Park Authority. The amendment establishes penalties for people who violate the conditions at exempt facilities. It also strikes the Class A crime for arson forest fire. In addition, the amendment provides the Governor the authority to exempt from a fire ban human activities and out-of-door fires that do not create a significant forest fire threat.

**LD 1776**

**Resolve, to Require Additional Promotion of the Maine Quality Seal**

RESOLVE 68  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)  
SPEAR

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-826

LD 1776 was one of 6 bills submitted by the Commission to Study Options for Preserving the Dairy Industry in the State.

The resolve proposed to require the Maine Dairy Promotion Board to increase promotion of the Maine Quality Seal for dairy products. It also proposed the board set specific goals for the promotion and to evaluate the promotion effort. It proposed that \$50,000 be transferred from the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund to be used toward the expenses for this promotion.

**House Amendment "A" (H-826)** proposed to correct a spelling error and add a fiscal note.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1995, chapter 68 requires the Maine Dairy Promotion Board to increase promotion of the Maine Quality Seal for dairy products. It requires the board to set specific goals for the promotion and to evaluate the promotion effort. It provides that \$50,000 be transferred from the Maine Dairy Farm Stabilization Fund to be used toward the expenses for this promotion.

Chapter 68 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 2, 1996.