

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

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

JULY 1997

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Sen. R. Leo Kieffer

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 1997

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. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

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 Regular 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 & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</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/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</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>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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>Bill held by Governor</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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

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be prosecuted as criminal violations or treated as civil violations. This bill would have required the following violations to be prosecuted as criminal violations; unlawful use of animals, failing to provide sustenance to an animal, failure to provide necessary medical attention to an animal, failure to provide shelter and clean conditions for an animal, and cruelty to animals. It also proposed imposing a duty on a veterinarian who knew or had reasonable cause to suspect that an animal was the subject of cruelty or neglect to report such knowledge or suspicion to the local law enforcement agency or animal control officer.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-214) proposed replacing the original bill. It proposed increasing the minimum fine from \$100 to \$250 for civil violations under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 739, Cruelty to Animals.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 170 increases the minimum fine from \$100 to \$250 for civil violations under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 739, Cruelty to Animals.

LD 1078 An Act to Require Labeling on Genetically Engineered Food INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHARTRAND	OTP-AM MAJ	
NUTTING	ONTP MIN	

LD 1078 proposed requiring the labeling of genetically engineered food. A manufacturer or distributor who sold a genetically engineered food without the words “genetically engineered” on the invoice would be in violation of provisions prohibiting misbranded food. A manufacturer or distributor who sold a genetically engineered food without the words “genetically engineered” on the invoice would be in violation of provisions prohibiting misbranding of food. A retailer who sold or offered for sale a genetically engineered food without the prescribed label on packaged food or the sign next to food that is not packaged would be in violation of provisions prohibiting misbranding of food. The bill proposed a definition of genetically engineered food.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-394) was the majority report of the Committee and proposed replacing the original bill and it would have prohibited genetically engineered food from being labeled or advertised as organic or natural. The majority report was not adopted.

LD 1092 An Act to Provide Public Information on Forest Management Practices ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMSON	ONTP MAJ	
MILLS	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1092 proposed making annual wood processing reports, forest landowner harvest reports and precommercial silvicultural practices reports available to the public. It also proposed requiring forest landowners to report additional information regarding the establishment of plantations.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-431) was the minority report of the committee. It proposed to clarify that volume information in wood processor reports and information in forest landowner reports submitted prior to October 1, 1997 would remain confidential. It also proposed specifying that information on individual landowner reports regarding stumpage prices and volumes of species harvested by product type would remain confidential. It also proposed adding an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill. The minority report was not adopted.

LD 1128 **An Act to Transfer Funds from the Maine Forest Service to the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District** **P & S 34**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCELROY	OTP-AM	H-220 H-375 BUNKER

LD 1128 proposed requiring the Department of Conservation to transfer to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources a certain parcel of land in the Town of Waldo for the benefit of the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-220) proposed replacing the original bill. It proposed directing the Bureau of Forestry to pay \$20,000 to the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District and specified that the allocation come from the Division of Forest Fire Control account. It proposed directing the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District to use the money to purchase land for building an office. The amendment also proposed adding an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-375) proposed removing the emergency preamble and emergency clause and replacing the allocation section.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 34 directs the Bureau of Forestry to pay \$20,000 to the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District and specifies that the allocation come from the Division of Forest Fire Control account. It requires the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District to use the money to purchase land for building an office. It provides for an allocation of \$20,000 to authorize payment from the Division of Forest Fire Control account to the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District in fiscal year 1997-98.

LD 1166 **An Act to Amend the Membership of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission** **PUBLIC 549**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HALL	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-244

LD 1166 proposed requiring that four of the members of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission be residents of territory within the jurisdiction of the commission. Current law requires that at least two of the seven members of the Land Use Regulation Commission be residents of territory within the jurisdiction of the commission.