

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

MAY 1998

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Sen. Judy Paradis

Sen. R. Leo Kieffer

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Staff:

Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst

Patrick T. Norton, Principal 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 EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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:

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 IN CONCURRENCE.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....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
OTP ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....Bill held by Governor
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 June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

authorizing animal control officers to enforce rabies protection measures and establishing a penalty for noncomplaint owners.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-577) proposed technical changes to the definition of "wolf hybrid". It proposed amendments to rabies vaccination requirements for cats and a fine for a violation of the mandatory feline vaccination. It proposed clarifications regarding licensing of wolf hybrids. It proposed amending the bill to require a wolf hybrid to be removed immediately and euthanized for testing when the wolf hybrid has bitten a person or domestic animal and is suspected of having rabies. The original bill proposed the animal be killed immediately. The amendment proposed language clarifying the provisions for court orders for removal of animals when an owner does not comply with confinement orders or other actions required by rule to prevent rabies.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 704 requires a wolf hybrid that has bitten a person or domestic animal and is suspected of having rabies to be removed immediately and euthanized for testing. If the animal control officer, local health officer, game warden or law enforcement officer believes the animal poses an immediate threat, the animal control officer, local health officer, game warden or law enforcement officer may immediately kill the animal. It requires rabies vaccine boosters for cats at intervals specific to the vaccine administered. It allows a medical exemption from the requirement that a cat be vaccinated for rabies. It provides for a fine of not more than \$100 for a violation of the mandatory feline vaccination. It allows a municipal clerk to issue a dog license for a wolf hybrid without proof that the wolf hybrid has been immunized. It requires a license issued for a wolf hybrid or a dog represented as a wolf hybrid to state that the dog is a wolf hybrid.

It enacts a procedure for obtaining a court order to remove an animal when the owner has not complied with requirements established by rule for quarantine or euthanasia of the animal. It allows a municipality to record a lien against the property of an animal's owner if the owner fails to pay the costs of confining an animal.

LD 2172

An Act to Provide for the Licensing, Inspection and Labeling of Farmstead Cheese

PUBLIC 639

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOLDTHWAIT PIEH	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-500
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LD 2172 proposed requiring the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to inspect the processing of farmstead cheese and to establish rules for the labeling and licensing of farmstead cheese. It proposed limiting the sale of the farmstead cheese.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-500) proposed language to clarify the provisions proposed in the original bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 639 requires the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to inspect the production of farmstead cheese. It requires the department to establish rules for the labeling of farmstead cheese and the licensing of producers. It restricts sale of farmstead cheese to the farm where it was produced, farmers' markets and farm stands.