

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

JULY 2000

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Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
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 NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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 August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

LD 449

An Act Requiring Disclosures to be Made to Purchasers of Land Abutting Agricultural Land

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAVAGE C	ONTP	

LD 449 proposed requiring that prospective purchasers of land abutting registered farmland receive notice of the characteristics of farming activities in that area.

LD 477

An Act to Establish Standards and Conditions for Designation of Ecological Reserves on Lands Managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands

PUBLIC 592

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KILKELLY DUNLAP	OTP-AM	S-500 S-510 NUTTING J

LD 477 proposed requiring approval of the Legislature for creation of an ecological reserve on land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks and Lands or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-500) proposed replacing the original bill. The amendment proposed enacting a definition of "ecological reserve" and allowing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to designate as an ecological reserve under the jurisdiction of the bureau lands that were listed as parcels for potential ecological reserve designation in the 1998 published inventory. It proposed allowing the director to designate additional land as an ecological reserve during the process of adopting a management plan for that parcel of land.

The amendment proposed specifying uses allowed on ecological reserves. It proposed prohibiting timber harvesting, commercial mining and excavation of sand and gravel on ecological reserves. It proposed providing limits on the total acreage within the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks and Lands that may be designated as ecological reserves and limiting the amount of operable timberland that may be designated as ecological reserves. It proposed requiring wildfires to be controlled and specifies allowed protection measures. It proposed requiring the director to include information on ecological reserves in the director's annual reports to the Legislature on reserved and nonreserved public lands.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-510) proposed clarifying that more than one ecological reserve may be designated on parcels of land included in the inventory and that more than one additional reserve may be authorized.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 592 enacts a definition of "ecological reserve" and allows the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to designate as an ecological reserve lands under the jurisdiction of the bureau that were listed as parcels for potential ecological reserve designation in the 1998 published inventory. In the process of adopting a management plan for a parcel of land that was not in the 1998 inventory, the director may designate additional land as an ecological reserve.

Chapter 592 specifies uses allowed on ecological reserves. It prohibits timber harvesting, commercial mining and excavation of sand and gravel on ecological reserves. It provides limits on the total acreage within the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks and Lands that may be designated as ecological reserves and limits the amount of operable timberland that may be designated as ecological reserves. It requires wildfires to be controlled and specifies allowed protection measures. It requires the director to include information on ecological reserves in the director's annual reports to the Legislature on reserved and nonreserved public lands.

LD 855 **An Act to Improve the Management of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARTIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 855 proposed requiring in statute that the principal administrative office of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway be established at Churchill Dam.

LD 1182 **An Act to Amend the Qualifications of Weighmasters** **PUBLIC 646**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER PINGREE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-952
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LD 1182 proposed establishing a corporate public weighmaster license.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-952) proposed specifying that only a person holding an individual public weighmaster's license would be allowed to issue weight certificates under a corporate license. It also proposed a penalty for a corporate licensee who allowed a nonlicensed individual to issue weight certificates.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 646 establishes a corporate public weighmaster license. Only a person holding an individual public weighmaster's license is allowed to issue weight certificates under a corporate license. The individual weighmaster issuing a weight certificate must be identified by number on the corporate seal.