

# 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  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

JULY 1999

*Staff:*  
*Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst*

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

*MEMBERS:*  
*Sen. John M. Nutting, Chair*  
*Sen. Marge L. Kilkelly*  
*Sen. R. Leo Kieffer*

*Rep. Wendy Pieh, Chair*  
*Rep. Paul Volenik*  
*Rep. Elizabeth Watson*  
*Rep. Scott W. Cowger*  
*Rep. Rosita Gagne*  
*Rep. Ruel P. Cross*  
*Rep. Walter R. Gooley*  
*Rep. Clifton E. Foster*  
*Rep. Roderick W. Carr*  
*Rep. Barry G. Gillis*



**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**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees**  
**August 1999**

We are pleased to provide this summary of all 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](http://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:

*CARRIED OVER*.....Bill carried over to Second Regular 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 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  
*ENACTMENT FAILED*..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage  
*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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

**LD 626**

**An Act to Require Wildlife Management and Uneven-aged Forest Stand Management on Public Reserved Lands**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHOREY CASSIDY	ONTP	

LD 626 proposed specifying that uneven-aged forest stand management be used on the public reserved lands. It also proposed requiring the Commissioner of Conservation to transfer management responsibility from the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Bureau of Forestry when the dominant use on a portion of public reserved lands is timber production.

**LD 677**

**An Act to Change the Way Ginseng License and Registration Fees Are Established**

**ONTP**

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

LD 677 proposed repealing the fees established in statute for cultivating ginseng and for conducting business as a ginseng dealer and authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to establish these fees by rule. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

**LD 682**

**An Act to Increase the Late Fee for Licensing a Dog**

**PUBLIC 136**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KASPRZAK	OTP	

LD 682 proposed increasing the late fee for licensing a dog from \$3 to \$10 when a municipal warrant is issued for owners of unlicensed dogs.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 136 increases the late fee for licensing a dog from \$3 to \$10. The \$10 fee applies to an owner whose name appears on a municipal warrant.

**LD 694**

**An Act to Increase the Number of Elm Trees in the State**

**PUBLIC 98**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNON DAGGETT	OTP-AM	H-94

LD 694 proposed appropriating \$1,000,000 to the Department of Conservation in fiscal year 1999-00 to be used to develop a program to increase the number of elm trees in the State. The appropriated funds were proposed to be used as grants to match on a one-to-one basis funds raised by municipally recognized tree boards. Grants were proposed to be made on the basis of recommendations received from the Community Forestry Council of Maine.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-94)** proposed establishing a fund within the Bureau of Forestry to be used for grants to municipalities to plant and maintain disease-resistant cultivars of American elm and that the bureau develop a process to accept applications and award grants. It also proposed to add an allocation section and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 98 establishes the Elm Tree Restoration Fund within the Bureau of Forestry to be used for grants to municipalities to plant and maintain disease-resistant cultivars of American elm. It authorizes the bureau to apply for and accept gifts and grants. It directs the bureau to develop a process to accept applications and award grants. It does not appropriate any General Fund dollars to this program but provides an initial allocation for dedicated revenue.

**LD 705**                      **An Act to Prevent an Aggressive Dog from Doing Harm to People**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JONES	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
----------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------

LD 705 proposed provisions to declare a dog as a potentially dangerous dog and require to the owner or keeper to confine the dog. (See bill summary for LD 575)

**LD 713**                      **An Act to Establish Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Foods**                      **INDEF PP**

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

LD 713 proposed requiring the labeling by retailers of genetically engineered food.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-490)** was the majority report. It proposed amending the bill to require labeling only of “whole foods” that are genetically engineered foods, whole food meaning food that is unprocessed or minimally processed. It also proposed provisions for the voluntary labeling of foods that are not genetically engineered foods. This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill. The majority report was not adopted.

**LD 727**                      **An Act to Limit Publicly Owned Land**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 727 proposed limiting publicly owned land in this State to no more than 7% of the total land area of the State or 10% of the land area in any county.