

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

JULY 1999

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**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 912**

**Resolve, to Transfer Land in Edmunds**

**RESOLVE 11**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN CASSIDY	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-89
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LD 912 proposed allowing the Director of the Bureau of Public Lands, once the bureau acquires title to a certain piece of property in Edmunds, to convey that property to the Dennys River Historical Society.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-89)** proposed technical changes to the resolve providing a preamble and cross-references and clarifying that the property to be transferred to the Dennys River Historical Society is located in Edmunds. It also proposed providing that the property be conveyed to Edmunds if the township of Edmunds becomes incorporated as a town. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the resolve.

*Enacted law summary*

Resolve 1999, chapter 11 allows the Director of the Bureau of Public Lands, once the bureau acquires title to a certain piece of property in Edmunds, to convey that property to the Dennys River Historical Society. It also provides that the property be conveyed to Edmunds if the township of Edmunds becomes incorporated as a town.

**LD 931**

**An Act to Ensure Children's Safety from Uncontrolled Dogs**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAVIS G	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 931 proposed allowing a humane agent, animal control officer or animal shelter to authorize the immediate euthanasia of a dog that caused serious bodily injury to a child 12 years of age or younger or presents a danger to the public. This bill proposed that the owner of the dog pay all expenses incurred by the victim of the assault and the costs of the euthanasia.

**LD 950**

**An Act to Consolidate and Improve Agricultural Market Research and New Technology Grants in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to Encourage Economic Development of Maine Farms and Food Processors**

**PUBLIC 72  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KIEFFER KNEELAND	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-41
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LD 950 proposed consolidating administration of existing agricultural market and production development grant programs including the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund, technology transfer and special research projects program and the market research and development grant program. The bill proposed combining these programs into a comprehensive agricultural development grant program including elements of the individual grant programs. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-41)** proposed to add an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill. It proposed criteria for allocating grants. It proposed limiting the maximum amount of any single grant to \$30,000 and

clarifying that funds designated in one fiscal year may be expended in the next year. It proposed technical corrections to the bill. It also proposed changing the date by which the Board of Agriculture must establish a long-range plan from November 1, 1998 to January 15, 2000.

**Enacted law summary**

Public Law 1999, chapter 72 consolidates administration of existing agricultural market and production development grant programs including the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund, technology transfer and special research projects program and the market research and development grant program. It combines these programs into a comprehensive agricultural development grant program that includes elements of the individual grant programs. It allows funding for market promotion and authorizes rulemaking to establish criteria for the allocation of grant money, and application and reporting requirements. It directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to award grants w, when possible, to applicants representing diverse agricultural enterprises and geographic areas. It raises the cap on funds available for the programs through the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund from \$150,000 to \$250,000 per fiscal year.

Chapter 72 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 16, 1999.

**LD 976                      An Act to Reduce the Amount of Paperwork Required for Transactions Involving the Sale of Wood                      DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

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

LD 976 proposed repealing the provision in the wood measurement laws that requires that a trip ticket accompany each load of wood transported. Instead, the bill proposed requiring the harvest notification number to be recorded on the measurement tally sheet. The bill proposed that truck drivers, when hauling wood harvested in the state, provide the name of the town in which the wood was harvested and the harvest notification number to wood scalers and persons who enforce wood measurement laws.

**House Amendment "A" (H-64)** was the minority report of the committee. It proposed requiring that a wood harvester, landowner or agent provide a copy of the harvest notification form to the truck driver and that, at the request of the mill, the truck driver would be required to provide a copy of the notification to the mill. The minority report was not accepted.

**LD 997                      Resolve, Granting a Right-of-way Across Baxter State Park Authority Property in the Town of Harpswell to the Coffin Family                      ONTP**

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

LD 997 proposed granting the Coffin family an easement for a right-of-way across Baxter State Park Authority property in the Town of Harpswell to access the Coffin family property. The scope of the proposed easement for the right-of-way would be limited to one lane. This resolve would have prohibited the Baxter State Park Authority from blocking the right-of-way and refusing the Coffin family, its successors and assigns to use the right-of-way to access the Coffin family property.