

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

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

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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).

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.

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-52) was the minority report. It proposed removing the emergency provisions in the resolve. It also proposed correcting a cross reference and the county. The minority report was not accepted.

LD 1008 **An Act to Require Labeling of Fruits and Vegetables to Identify Country of Origin** **PUBLIC 405**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ETNIER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-615
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LD 1008 proposed amending the laws requiring fresh fruit and vegetables sold in this State to be labeled with the country of origin.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-615) proposed adding a provision to Maine's Fair Packaging and Labeling Act to specify that produce grown in another country but packed in Maine must bear a label identifying the country of origin in letters equal in size to the letters identifying the packer. The amendment also proposed to remove the requirement that produce produced in the United States must be labeled as to country of origin. This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 405 repeals provisions requiring the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to designate countries whose produce must be labeled prior to retail sale in Maine. Instead, it requires all fresh produce grown in a foreign country and sold in Maine to be labeled with the country of origin. It adds a provision to Maine's Fair Packaging and Labeling Act to specify that produce grown in another country but packed in Maine must bear a label identifying the country of origin in letters equal in size to the letters identifying the packer.

LD 1088 **An Act to Prohibit Permanent Committees Authorized by the Baxter State Park Authority** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CLARK DAVIS P		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1088 proposed prohibiting permanent advisory committees for the Baxter State Park Authority. It would have limited any advisory committee to a six-month appointment and prohibited preferential treatment of committee members.

LD 1093 **An Act to Provide Farm Cooperatives More Flexibility in Establishing Officers and Using Titles for Various Officers** **PUBLIC 48**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KNEELAND KIEFFER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1093 proposed providing farm cooperatives with greater flexibility in establishing officers.

Enacted law summary