

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).

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.

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