

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.

Public Law 1999, chapter 48 provides farm cooperatives with greater flexibility in establishing officers.

LD 1144

An Act to Make Public Certain Information Regarding Forest Practices

ONTP

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

LD 1144 proposed changes to the laws governing reports concerning forest practices activities. It would have made annual wood processing reports submitted after October 1, 1999 available to the public. It proposed that landowners owning more than 20,000 acres report information regarding the establishment of plantations. It proposed to make harvest reports of landowners owning more than 20,000 acres available to the public and that individual landowner reports regarding stumpage prices and volumes of species harvested by product type would remain confidential. It proposed that the Maine Forest Service produce an annual report containing the forest practices information made public by this bill.

LD 1172

Resolve, Establishing a Task Force to Study the Need for an Agricultural Vitality Zone Program

**RESOLVE 81
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDTHWAIT	OTP-AM	S-196
COWGER		S-460 MICHAUD

LD 1172 proposed establishing the Task Force to Study the Need for an Agricultural Vitality Zone Program to identify areas of the State where there is substantial existing small-scale agricultural activity, definable networks of support services and regional markets that have been or are being developed. The proposed task force would also be required to target existing and potential state resources, including farmland conservation and protection measures, job training and beginning-farmer training programs, tax credits and incentives and grants and loans, to create and support these agricultural vitality zones.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-196) proposed changes to the membership of the Task Force to Study the Need for an Agricultural Vitality Zone Program and allowing the members to select a chair. It proposed a minimum of 4 public meetings, one in each of the State's 4 development districts. It also proposed adding an emergency preamble and emergency clause and an appropriation section and fiscal note to the resolve.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-460) proposed changing the membership of the task force to provide for 4 citizen members and 5 legislators as members and to require the task force to invite the participation of representatives of the State Planning Office, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the Department of Economic and Community Development and representatives of regional development districts.

It also proposed changing the reporting date to December 1, 1999 and authorizing the Legislative Council to grant an extension upon request of the task force. It proposed that the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis provide staffing services and requires the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and the State Planning Office to provide additional services as requested by the task force chairs.

Finally, the amendment proposed removing language in the committee amendment relating to public hearings and proposed a convening date of no later than July 30, 1999.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 81 establishes a Task Force to Study the Need for an Agricultural Vitality Zone Program. The task force consists of 4 citizen members with experience in agriculture or agricultural marketing and 5 Legislators. The first named Senate member and the first named House member serve as chairs of the task force.

The task force is charged with identifying areas of the State where there is substantial existing small-scale agricultural activity, networks of support services and regional markets. The task force is also required to target existing and potential state resources, including farmland conservation and protection measures, job training and beginning-farmer training programs, tax credits and incentives and grants and loans, to create and support these agricultural vitality zones.

The task force is required to invite the participation of representatives of the State Planning Office, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the Department of Economic and Community Development and representatives of regional development districts. The Office of Policy and Legal Analysis will provide staffing services. The State Planning Office and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources will provide assistance as needed.

It requires the task force to report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by December 1, 1999. The committee is authorized to report out a bill during the Second Session of the 119th Legislature based on recommendations and findings of the task force.

Chapter 81 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 17, 1999.

LD 1181

An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Dangerous Dogs

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> THOMPSON BENNETT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1181 proposed to strengthen enforcement of the laws pertaining to dangerous dogs. The bill proposed changes in the process for filing a complaint of an assault by a dog. The bill proposed clarifying when an ex parte order might be entered. The bill proposed making it a Class D crime if an owner failed to abide by an order of the court for confining a dog. (See enacted law summary for LD 575)

LD 1183

An Act to Increase Harness Racing Opportunities

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1183 proposed deregulating the race date assignment process and allowing all tracks, including fairs, to conduct live racing on any days they chose.