

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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KIEFFER CARR	OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	H-326 MARTIN

LD 1188 proposed codifying the current policy of the Department of Conservation that forest rangers may, under life-threatening emergency conditions, assist law enforcement officers and that they are entitled to the same immunity and benefits as rangers are when they are performing their regular forest ranger duties. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Conversation.

House Amendment "A" (H-326) proposed requiring the Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bullet-proof vests, firearms, and related equipment, if any, purchased by the Department of Conservation for the use of certain Bureau of Forestry employees. The amendment also proposed that funds generated by the sale be deposited in the General Fund. This amendment also proposed requiring the commissioner to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs concerning the specific amount of revenue generated by the sale. This amendment also proposed prohibiting the Commissioner of Conservation from purchasing bullet-proof vests, firearms and related materiel without explicit legislative authorization.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 352 codifies the current policy of the Department of Conservation that forest rangers may, under the life-threatening emergency conditions, assist law enforcement officers and that they are entitled to the same immunity and benefits as rangers are in performing their regular forest ranger duties.

It requires the Commissioner of Conservation to sell all bullet-proof vests, firearms, and related equipment purchased by the Department of Conservation for the use of certain Bureau of Forestry employees. Funds generated by the sale will be deposited in the General Fund. It requires the commissioner to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs concerning the specific amount of revenue generated by the sale. It specifically prohibits the Commissioner of Conservation from purchasing bullet-proof vests, firearms and related materiel without explicit legislative authorization.

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

LD 1193 proposed requiring that 10% of the funds expended by the Land for Maine's Future Board to acquire natural lands be used to acquire lands of local or regional significance.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOOLEY KIEFFER	OTP-AM	H-230 PIEH