

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

JULY 2000

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

It identifies chronic wasting disease in statute as a reportable disease. The commissioner currently determines by rule which diseases are "reportable." Any person who has knowledge of the existence of or exposure to a reportable disease is required to report this to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. It directs the commissioner to monitor reports of chronic wasting disease and progress in developing diagnostic tests and vaccinations for the disease and to develop a program to prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease into the State.

Chapter 765 makes it a violation of civil and criminal cruelty to animals statutes for anyone to hunt or sell for the purpose of hunting any animal except as permitted in a licensed commercial large game shooting area or in statutes administered and enforced by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

LD 1475

An Act to Clarify the Tree Growth Tax Law

ONTP

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

LD 1475 proposed requiring landowners who own more than 100,000 acres of land in the State to harvest at or below a sustainable level on their forest land taxed under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. It also proposed requiring the Department of Conservation to adopt rules to establish a procedure for determining landowner compliance.

LD 1567

An Act to Help Farmers to Protect the Quality of Milk

PUBLIC 618

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WESTON DAVIS P	OTP-AM	H-934

LD 1567 proposed making the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources the arbitrator in disputes over milk test results. It proposed directing the department to establish by rule the tests appropriate for various aspects of milk quality testing.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-934) proposed replacing the original bill. It directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to develop a process for obtaining and testing samples of milk when a milk producer disputes the results of a test or a component analysis conducted by an employee of a milk plant.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 618 directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to develop a process for obtaining and testing samples of milk when a milk producer disputes the results of a test or a component analysis conducted by an employee of a milk plant.