

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

LD 1674

An Act to Exempt from Certain Regulations Crabmeat That Does Not Cross State Lines

ONTP

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

LD 1674 exempts home-based crabmeat processors from any critical control point identification program administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources pursuant to the United States Food and Drug Administration's seafood hazard analysis critical control point regulations as long as all the crabmeat processed by that person is sold for consumption in the State. The bill requires such crabmeat to be clearly labeled "Not for sale or consumption outside the State of Maine."

The bill also requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to reimburse all home-based crabmeat processors for fees paid to attend training and educational meetings on the United States Food and Drug Administration's seafood hazard analysis critical control point regulations.

LD 1985

An Act to Require the Labeling of Irradiated Food Sold at Retail

ONTP

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

LD 1985 proposed prohibiting the knowing retail sale of irradiated food unless the food is labeled "irradiated food."

LD 2005

Resolve, to Establish the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry

**RESOLVE 124
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VOLENIK	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-865 S-771 MICHAUD

LD 2005 proposed establishing the Maine Forest Policy Round Table Study Commission to address and study key forestry issues, including economic and labor issues, and to make recommendations for changes in the State's forestry policy.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-865) proposed the majority report. It proposed replacing the original resolve and changing the name of the round table to the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry to more accurately reflect the focus of the study.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-771) proposed changes to the committee amendment regarding the appointment of members to the round table and member compensation. It also proposed making the resolve emergency legislation.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 124 establishes the Round Table to Study Economic and Labor Issues Relating to the Forest Products Industry. The round table consists of 19 members. Eight members are appointed by the President of the Senate and eight are appointed by the Speaker of the House. The Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of Labor and the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture, University of Maine or their respective designees also serve as voting members. The round table is directed to study trends in the logging industry, including employment relationships, the dynamics of import and export markets for roundwood and other forest products and the status of value-added manufacturing within the forest products industry. The round table is directed to hold a public meeting on its findings and to submit a report to the 120th Legislature by December 5, 2001.

Resolve 1999, chapter 124 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 8, 2000.

LD 2086

An Act to Preserve the State's Farm Economy and Heritage

PUBLIC 763

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE	OTP-AM	S-574 S-788 MICHAUD

LD 2086 proposed creating the Maine Farms for the Future Program to assist farms in developing business plans to identify changes in farm management practices and investments in equipment and property with potential to increase the vitality of the farm.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-574) proposed clarifying that the approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources would be needed for a selected farm to receive more than \$5,000 for contracted services as part of a services package. It also proposed specifying that the annual report by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources on this program be made to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over agricultural matters.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-788) proposed reducing the appropriation from \$1,066,728 to a one-time appropriation of \$200,000 and requiring the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to contract with an organization that would provide \$200,000 matching nonstate funds for a program total of \$400,000. The amendment proposed prohibiting the contracting organization from expending more than 15% per year of the cost of the program or \$125,000 over the life of the program for administration.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 763 creates the Maine Farms for the Future Program. This program provides funds to assist farms in developing business plans to identify changes in farm management practices and investments in equipment and property with potential to increase the vitality of the farm.

The program operates in 2 phases; the first phase allows a farm that has 5 or more acres of land in agricultural use to apply for assistance in developing a business plan and the 2nd phase allows a farm that has developed a business plan with the program to apply for investment support to implement the plan. A review panel evaluates and selects applications for participation in the program.