

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" (H-524) proposed allowing useable timber products generated from right-of-way maintenance to be piled within the right-of-way of a public road for up to 30 days. It proposed clarifying that the permits referred to are burning permits. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 332 amends the laws governing the disposal of slash by a landowner who cuts forest growth on land that is within or borders on the right-of-way of a public highway, railroad or utility. It also amends the laws governing the disposal of slash accumulated by utility line construction or maintenance. amendment allows useable timber products generated from right-of-way maintenance to be piled within the right-of-way of a public road for up to 30 days. It clarifies that the permits referred to are burning permits.

LD 2085

**An Act to Update the Statutes and Provide for the Basic Needs of the
Maine Conservation Corps**

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

Sponsor(s)
KILKELLY
MCKEE

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-171

LD 2085 proposed updating the laws governing the Maine Conservation Corps Program to encourage greater diversity among participants, to allow partnerships between the Corps and private nonprofit organizations and to clarify the types of activities that program participants may participate in. The bill also proposed appropriating money for 2 new positions and for computer networking.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-171) proposed corrections in the appropriations section and adding a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 2086

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

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
PINGREE

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2086 proposes creating the Maine Farms for the Future Program. This program would provide funds to assist farms in developing business plans. The plans would identify changes in farm management practices and investments in equipment and property that would increase the vitality of the farm. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources would administer the program or contract with a suitable organization to administer the program.

The program as proposed would operate in 2 phases; the first phase allowing 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 allowing a farm that has developed a business plan with the program to apply for investment support to implement the plan. Both selection processes would be conducted by a review panel organized by the department.

The duties of the department or the suitable organization the department contracted to administer the program would be to promote the program to farms in the State, organize the review panel, develop selection criteria for both phases of the program, administer the disbursement of funds, execute and enforce farmland protection agreements and make a yearly progress report on the program to the Legislature. This bill proposes appropriating \$1,000,000 to capitalize the program.