

# 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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Sen. Marge L. Kilkelly  
Sen. R. Leo Kieffer*

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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](http://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

***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.

A farm selected in the first phase must enter into a 5-year first farmland protection agreement in which the farmer agrees to protect the farmland from nonagricultural development. A farm selected under the second phase must enter into an additional 5-year farmland protection agreement. The 5-year period must run consecutively with the first farmland protection agreement. The farm may withdraw from the agreement at any point if the farmer repays the program for any outside service reimbursement and any direct services provided the farm by the program.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources is required to contract for the administration of the program through a competitive process. The department is responsible for executing and enforcing the farmland protection agreements. The organization receiving the contract is responsible for promoting the program to farms in the State, organizing the review panel, developing selection criteria for both phases of the program, administering the disbursement of funds, and making a yearly progress report on the program to the Legislature. Chapter 763 appropriates \$200,000 to capitalize the program and specifies that the organization selected to administer the program must provide a \$200,000 match.

**LD 2295                      An Act to Clarify Granting Authority Under the Agricultural                      PUBLIC 563**  
**Development Grant Program**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J GOOLEY	OTP	

LD 2295 proposed allowing grants for technical assistance as one category of grants available under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 436. This category of grants was inadvertently deleted in Public Law 1999, chapter 72.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 563 allows grants for technical assistance as one category of grants funded from interest on the balance of the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund.

**LD 2306                      An Act to Amend the Animal Welfare Laws                      PUBLIC 597**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER	OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN	H-834

LD 2306 proposed amending the late fee for licensing a dog from \$3 to \$10. It also proposed amending the procedures for euthanizing stray dogs by allowing an authorized municipal agent to authorize in writing the euthanasia of severely sick, severely injured or extremely vicious dogs.

This bill also proposed removing the discretion of the court to order psychiatric or psychological counseling at the defendant's expense in matters involving cruelty to animals.

**Committee Amendment “A” (H-834)** proposed removing the section of the bill that proposed to amend provisions for euthanasia of stray dogs. It also proposed changing the late fee for dog licensing from the