

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

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 Development Grant Program

PUBLIC 563

<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