

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. 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).

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 2392

An Act to Provide Safety for Forest Rangers and the Public

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HEIDRICH	OTP-AM A	
BENNETT	ONTP B	

LD 2392 proposed requiring law enforcement officers within the Department of Conservation, Division of Forest Protection to have training equivalent to other law enforcement personnel and authorizing the use of personal protective equipment.

This bill also proposed repealing the provision in Public Law 1999, chapter 352 that requires the Commissioner of Conservation to sell bullet-proof vests, firearms and related equipment for the use of certain Bureau of Forestry employees and the provision that prohibits the commissioner from purchasing similar equipment.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-836) proposed allowing a forest ranger or a State Supervisor, Division of Forest Protection employed prior to July 1, 2000 to continue serving in that capacity without successfully completing the training required of persons appointed to those positions after July 1, 2000. It proposed language to clarify that appointments after July 1, 2000 would be contingent on successful completion of law enforcement training and certification. It proposed directing the Commissioner of Conservation to work with the Commissioner of Public Safety to establish a schedule for completion of training and certification no later than July 1, 2003 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

LD 2435

An Act to Implement the State Policy to Minimize Reliance on Pesticides

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KNEELAND	ONTP	
KIEFFER		

LD 2435 proposed appropriating \$150,000 to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to establish an Integrated Pest Management Research Fund.

LD 2448

An Act to Improve Licensing Efficiency within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

PUBLIC 598

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FOSTER	OTP-AM	H-864

LD 2448 proposed to change expiration dates for licenses issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources for food or food salvage establishments or beverage manufacturing or bottling to coincide with the calendar year.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-864) proposed clarifying that any license issued after August 1, 2000 expires on December 31st of the appropriate year of expiration and that license fees must be prorated based upon the December 31st expiration date.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 598 changes expiration dates for licenses issued by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources for food or food salvage establishments or beverage manufacturing or bottling to coincide with the calendar year.

LD 2457 **Resolve, to Require the State Sealer to Conduct Spot Checks at Timber Mills** **RESOLVE 125**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCGLOCKLIN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-1175 TOWNSEND H-835

LD 2457 proposed requiring the state sealer to conduct bimonthly spot checks at randomly selected timber mills to help increase the enforcement of the timber weights and measures standards.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-835) proposed clarifying that the state sealer is being directed to do spot checks to determine the accuracy of wood measurements and to enforce the wood measurement laws. It proposed an appropriation of \$50,613 to the Division of Quality Assurance within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources for an additional inspector and other costs associated with increased checks.

House Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A” (H-1175) proposed replacing the original bill. It provides for an additional one-time appropriation of \$10,000 to the Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 125 provides for a one-time appropriation of \$10,000 to the Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation for additional spot checks to determine the accuracy of wood measurements and to enforce the wood measurement laws. It requires the Director of the Division of Quality Assurance and Regulation to report to the Legislature by February 15, 2001 on the enhanced monitoring.

LD 2486 **Resolve, to Establish a Legislative Committee to Study Access to Private and Public Land in Maine** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCGLOCKLIN	OTP-AM	

LD 2486 proposed prohibiting owners or managers of parcels of land of 1,000 acres or more in the unorganized territory who charge an access fee to the forest land or restrict access to great ponds from benefiting under the tree growth tax law.