

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

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1057) proposed replacing the original bill with a resolve. The resolve proposed creating the Legislative Committee to Study Access to Private and Public Lands in Maine. It proposed directing the committee to gather information and study issues relating to access to lands beyond checkpoints operated by landowners and landowner associations. LD 2486 was not enacted.

The Committee to Study Access to Private and Public Lands in Maine was established by Joint Order (H.P. 1951).

LD 2512 An Act to Create a State-sponsored Voluntary Logger Certification Program ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE DOUGLASS	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2512 proposed directing the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry to develop a low-cost, voluntary logger certification program. The bill would have required the program to include training in first aid and emergency medical response, best management practices and chain saw safety, timber harvesting laws and the fundamentals of forestry.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-991), the minority report of the committee, proposed adding the Department of Education to the list of agencies the Bureau of Forestry must cooperate with in developing a voluntary logger certification program. It proposed expanding eligibility to participate in the program to people seeking training prior to employment in timber harvesting and landowners harvesting timber on their own land. It proposed adding an independent logger to the membership of the advisory board. It proposed requiring the Department of Conservation to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters by January 15, 2001 with a plan for a voluntary logger certification program. The minority report was not adopted.

LD 2528 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter (unassigned): Rules Governing the Licensing and Inspection of Farm Cheese, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources RESOLVE 92 EMERGENCY

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

LD 2528 proposed legislative review of Rules Governing the Licensing and Inspection of Farm Cheese, a major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.