

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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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-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.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 92 authorizes final adoption of Rules Governing the Licensing and Inspection of Farm Cheese, a major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Resolve 1999, chapter 92 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective March 15, 2000.

LD 2532

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Need for an Agricultural Vitality Zone Program

PUBLIC 769

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	S-548 S-761 MICHAUD

LD 2532 proposed requiring that a minimum of \$1,000,000 be available from the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund for loans to agricultural enterprises engaged primarily in direct marketing. It proposed funding up to 50% of the cost of developing a business plan for an agricultural enterprise applying for a project loan under the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund program.

It proposed several measures to assess and increase the consumption of locally grown food. It proposed allowing proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund to be used for developing a business plan and capital improvements to farmland when interest in the farmland has been acquired through the Land for Maine's Future Fund.

It proposed authorizing legislation during the 120th Legislature to update and revise provisions in Title 7 regarding agricultural internship and training, agricultural awareness, purchasing of food by state institutions and in-state marketing of food produced in Maine. This bill proposed appropriating \$60,000 to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to assist in developing data regarding food consumption and support activities to increase sales of locally grown food.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-548) proposed clarifications to the original bill. It also proposed reducing the appropriation to \$20,000 and lowering the limit on funds available for developing a business plan.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-761) clarifies that the appropriation is one-time funding and allocates funds to the Maine Milk Commission to be used for dues associated with membership in the Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 769 requires that a minimum of \$1,000,000 be available from the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund for loans to agricultural enterprises engaged primarily in direct marketing. These loans may be for traditional equipment and other capital expenses. The requirement that the commissioner make available \$1,000,000 for these projects is repealed December 31, 2002. Chapter 769 specifies circumstances under which the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund may be used to help fund the cost of developing a business plan for an agricultural enterprise applying for a project loan under the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund program and sets limits on the amount of funding for the business plan.