

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

*July 2003*

**Members:**

*Sen. Bruce S. Bryant, Chair  
Sen. Richard Kneeland  
Sen. Edward M. Youngblood*

*Rep. Linda Rogers McKee, Chair  
Rep. Jacqueline A. Lundeen  
Rep. Raymond G. Pineau  
Rep. John F. Piotti  
Rep. Nancy E. Smith  
Rep. Roderick W. Carr  
Rep. Ken Honey  
Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher  
Rep. Eugene L. Churchill  
Rep. John Eder*

**Staff:**

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# Maine State Legislature



## Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

### 121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

#### Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i> .....	<i>Bills carried over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session</i>
<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 &amp; 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>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i> .....	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

**David C. Elliott, Director**  
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT	OTP-AM MAJ	H-533 MCKEE
PINEAU	ONTP MIN	S-195

LD 1545 proposed increasing fees for dog licensing and animal facility licenses administrated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. Dog licenses would be increased from \$7.50 to \$20 for dogs capable of producing young and from \$4 to \$10 for dogs incapable of producing young. The bill also proposed requiring that animal control officers appointed by municipalities pass a literacy test and complete a minimum of 8 hours basic training and 8 hours practical hands-on training to be certified by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. The bill proposed additional training requirements for humane agents employed by the .

LD 1545 also proposed allowing the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to establish a pilot project for the registration of dogs via the Internet.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-195 )** proposed to:

1. Allow the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to accept funds and gifts for deposit in a separate account to enhance the animal welfare program;
2. Establish more comprehensive training requirements for humane agents;
3. Remove additional training requirements proposed for animal control officers;
4. Require a veterinarian statement in writing prior to the authorization of euthanasia by a humane agent, animal control officer or animal shelter authorizing euthanasia of a severely sick, severely injured or extremely vicious cat;
5. Establish a process for animal shelters to accept and dispose of pets whose owners are incarcerated or hospitalized;
6. Entitle an animal shelter to receive reimbursement for holding animals at the request or with the approval of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources when the animal is held pending an investigation or disposition of an alleged violation of cruelty to animals laws;
7. Modify language in the bill authorizing the department to establish a process for licensing dogs using the Internet;
8. Reduce the proposed increases in dog license fees and allows municipalities to keep \$2 for dogs that are capable of producing young; and
9. Increase late fees, which remain with the municipality.

*Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-533)** proposed reducing the dog licenses fees proposed in Committee Amendment "A". H-533 proposed a license fee of \$10 for a dog capable of producing young and a license fee of \$6 for a dog that is incapable of producing young. It proposed removing the provision

in Committee Amendment "A" that allowed municipalities to retain \$2 per licensed dog capable of producing young.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 405 increases fees for dog licenses and fees for various animal facility licenses, including breeding kennels, boarding kennels, pet shops, animal shelters and research institutions. Dog licenses are increased from \$7.50 to \$10 for dogs capable of producing young and from \$4 to \$6 for dogs incapable of producing young. Chapter 405 requires that humane agents employed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources complete a 100-hour in-service program at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy or a nationally recognized program dealing with animal welfare.

It authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to establish a pilot project for issuing dog licenses via the Internet and allows the commissioner to accept funds and gifts for deposit in a separate account to enhance the animal welfare program. It requires a veterinarian's statement in writing prior to a humane agent, animal control officer or animal shelter authorizing euthanasia of a severely sick, severely injured or extremely vicious cat. It establishes a process for animal shelters to accept and dispose of pets whose owners are incarcerated or hospitalized.

**LD 1558                      Resolve, Authorizing Certain Land Transactions by the Department                      RESOLVE 65  
of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BUNKER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-432
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LD 1558 proposed authorizing the conveyance of certain property by the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation to SP Forests, L.L.C. for fair market value as established by an independent appraiser.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-432)** proposed adding a fiscal note.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Resolve 2003, chapter 65 authorizes the conveyance of certain property by the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Conservation to SP Forests, L.L.C. for fair market value as established by an independent appraiser. The State will be acquiring land of greater fair market value and containing significantly greater public recreational opportunities. The Bureau of Parks and Lands is seeking funds from the Land for Maine's Future program and the Outdoor Heritage Fund to make up the net difference in fair market value between the properties being conveyed and those being acquired. The acquisitions include shore frontage on Sebois Lake in Lakeview Plantation, land abutting the East Machias River and an island in Rock Lake in Washington County.