

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

July 2009

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# STATE OF MAINE

124<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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:

CARRIED OVER.....	Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
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; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 12, 2009. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

*Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

**LD 183**

**An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning Genetically Engineered Plants and Seeds**

**LEAVE TO WITHDRAW**

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

This bill proposes amending the definitions of "genetically engineered" and "technology use agreement." It requires the manufacturer of a genetically engineered plant part, seed or plant sold in the State to report annually to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources the total potential amount of acreage of genetically modified crops grown from that plant part, seed or plant in the State. It repeals the section of law pertaining to de minimus possession and provides a process by which a manufacturer of a genetically engineered plant part, seed or plant may investigate a suspected violation of a technology use agreement and the rights of a farmer during an investigation. It creates a right of action as and damages for a private nuisance against a manufacturer of a genetically engineered plant part, seed or plant that cross-contaminates a person's land and limits the liability of knowing and unknowing users and possessors of a genetically engineered plant part, seed or plant.

**LD 223**

**An Act To Ensure That Money from the Surcharge on Registration of Pet Food for the Sterilization of Animals is Received in a Timely Manner**

**PUBLIC 148 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS G	OTP-AM	S-68

This bill requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to deposit the surcharge on registration of pet food directly into the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund instead of the Animal Welfare Fund.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-68)**

This amendment specifies that the first \$100,000 in surcharges received by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources for the registration of pet food is deposited in the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund.

**Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2009, chapter 148 specifies that the first \$100,000 in surcharges received by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources for the registration of pet food is deposited in the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund.

Public Law 2009, chapter 148 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 18, 2009.