

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

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

July 2011

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD 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 LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

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; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature is September 28, 2011. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

LD 652 An Act To Protect Animal Cruelty Investigations

PUBLIC 210

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CRAY SHERMAN	OTP-AM	H-260

LD 652 amends the animal welfare laws to provide greater protection for victims of dangerous dogs. It also adds reports and records of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources pertaining to animal cruelty to the list of reports and records that contain intelligence and investigative information that are confidential.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-260)

This amendment removes the sections of the bill pertaining to dangerous dogs.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2011, chapter 210 adds reports and records of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources pertaining to animal cruelty to the list of reports and records that contain intelligence and investigative information that are confidential. For changes to the dangerous dog laws, see the bill summary for LD 755.

LD 676 An Act To Enact Requirements Concerning Veterinary Prescriptions

ONTP

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

LD 676 requires that prior to selling prescription medication to animal owners, a veterinarian must first inform the owner both orally and in writing of the option to obtain prescription items from a pharmacy of the owner's choice. The bill also requires that, whether or not requested by the animal owner and without imposing a fee, the veterinarian must provide a written prescription to the owner that the owner may elect to have the veterinarian dispense or to have filled at a pharmacy. The bill makes violations subject to the provisions of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

LD 696 An Act To Amend the Agricultural Working Dog Laws

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STRANG BURGESS SCHNEIDER	ONTP	

LD 696 restricts the exemption from barking dog ordinances for agricultural working dogs to dogs engaged in agricultural guarding or herding activities on land that is classified as farmland under the State's current use taxation program for farmland and land that is not classified as farmland but meets other criteria relating to size, use and location.