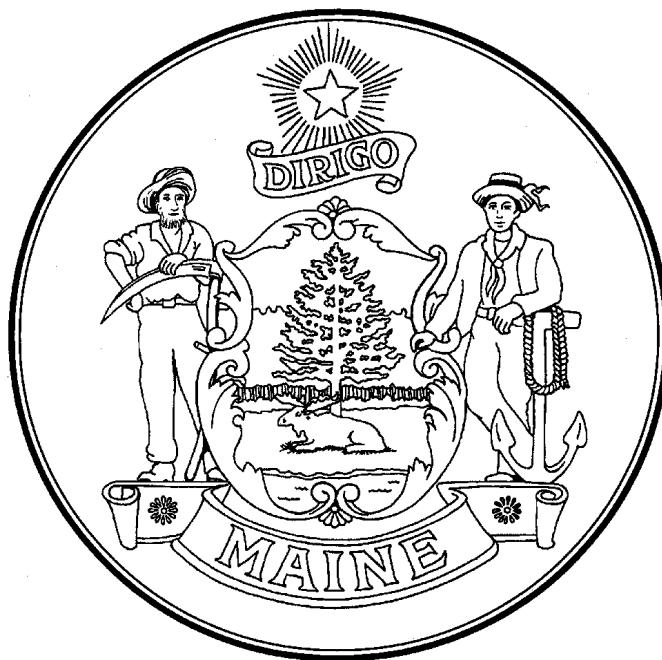


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

July 2013

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126th 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 126th Legislature is October 9, 2013. 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

legislation to have been enacted in 5 contiguous states including Maine before it takes effect. The amendment adds a purpose section to the new chapter on genetically engineered products. It also changes the conditions governing the contingent effective date and the contingent repeal date of the bill. The amendment establishes a process for the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to report to the Secretary of State, the Revisor of Statutes and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters when 5 contiguous states including Maine have adopted substantially similar legislation. The amendment provides that the section of the bill that enacts Title 22, chapter 565 takes effect 30 days after the date of the commissioner's certification. The amendment also proposes to exempt from the labeling requirements of the bill food products derived from any highly refined ingredients, where the effect of the purification process is to remove DNA or novel protein.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-394)

This amendment, which is one of 2 minority reports, changes the bill into a resolve. It directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to petition the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Commissioner of Food and Drugs to develop a nationwide system to more fully evaluate, monitor and provide for necessary labeling to reinforce consumer confidence in the safety of the nation's food system.

House Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-444)

This amendment defines "food" to mean food intended for human consumption and changes the contingent effective date to provide that the Act takes effect when legislation requiring mandatory labeling of genetically engineered food has been adopted by 5 contiguous states including Maine.

LD 745 An Act To Promote Sustainable Food Policies

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND MCCABE	ONTP OTP-AM	S-136 S-298 JACKSON T

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$1,000,000 beginning in fiscal year 2013-14 to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for grants to municipalities to support sustainable food practices. It also includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 beginning in fiscal year 2013-14 to the department to establish and administer a pilot project to support sustainable food practices.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-136)

This amendment is the minority report. The amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. It proposes to establish an 11-member Commission on Statewide Food Sustainability to study issues related to food sustainability and food insecurity in the State. The amendment requires that by December 4, 2013, the commission report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-298)

This amendment strikes the minority report and replaces it with language that:

1. Establishes the Maine Farm-to-Plate Commission to collaborate with and advise the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on critical issues of agricultural regulation, food safety and local and regional food-related issues;
2. Directs the commission to develop a strategic plan for agricultural economic development;
3. Directs the commission to use the information gathered in the course of developing and upgrading the strategic

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

plan to identify methods and the funding necessary to strengthen links among producers, processors and markets; and

4. Requires the commission to investigate the feasibility, logistics and propriety of instituting in the State food sovereignty under which local governments may regulate local food systems by local ordinance and directs the commission to submit a report of its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January 1, 2014.

LD 749 An Act To Prohibit the Taking or Possession of a Natural Resource ONTP
That Is on the Land of Another

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KUMIEGA JACKSON T	ONTP	

This bill makes the taking, removing or possessing of a natural resource from the property of another without written permission from the owner a civil violation and makes it a Class E crime if the value of the resource taken exceeds \$100 or if the offense is repeated.

LD 789 Resolve, To Establish the Task Force on Milk Tier Pricing RESOLVE 67

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK JACKSON T	OTP-AM	H-281

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposes to adjust the price levels determined pursuant to the laws governing dairy stabilization for the various tiers of milk production in order to account for recent dramatic increases in feed and fuel costs.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-281)

This amendment replaces the bill, which was a concept draft, with a resolve. It proposes to establish the 11-member Task Force on Milk Tier Pricing to study the current dairy stabilization tier program to determine if any modifications are necessary to ensure its effectiveness. The amendment requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by December 4, 2013. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the task force's recommendations.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2013, chapter 67 establishes an 11-member Task Force on Milk Tier Pricing to study the current dairy stabilization tier program to determine if any modifications are necessary to ensure its effectiveness. It requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by December 4, 2013. Resolve 2013, chapter 67 authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the task force's recommendations.