

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2017

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STAFF:

ALYSON MAYO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/opla/>

STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE
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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 128th 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. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

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 128th Legislature is Wednesday, November 1, 2017. 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 1369 An Act To Support Local Agricultural Production

ONTP

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

This bill creates the following implementation dates and minimum percentages regarding Maine foodstuffs that state and school purchasers must purchase directly from Maine food producers or food brokers: at least 15% by December 31, 2023; 20% by December 31, 2027; 25% by December 31, 2037; and 35% by December 31, 2038. It exempts from the requirements school purchasers at schools participating in the National School Lunch Program.

It also establishes a grant program to provide assistance with kitchen modifications at state and school facilities that lack equipment to prepare Maine foodstuffs and directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to implement the grant program. Grant funds may be used for kitchen modifications or funding kitchen staff at a facility to prepare Maine foodstuffs. The grant program provides a process for exemptions for institutions with kitchens that cannot be modified to prepare Maine foodstuffs from the requirement to meet the implementation schedule.

LD 1445 An Act To Designate the Maine Farm Agricultural Resource Management and Sustainability Recognition Program

PUBLIC 160

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BLACK R	OTP-AM	H-377

This bill replaces the Farming for Maine farms program with the Maine Farms Agricultural Resource Management and Sustainability recognition program to recognize sustainable agricultural practices and to increase public awareness of agricultural producer commitment to best management practices.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-377)

This amendment changes the bill title and the name of the recognition program.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 160 replaces the Farming for Maine farms program with the Maine Farms Agricultural Resource Management and Sustainability recognition program to recognize sustainable agricultural practices and to increase public awareness of agricultural producer commitment to best management practices.

LD 1446 An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Information in the Animal Welfare Laws

Died Between Houses

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TIMBERLAKE J DAVIS P	OTP-AM ONTP	

This bill provides that the names of and identifying information about persons who have contracted with or been hired by an entity for the purpose of filming or recording business operations of another entity to provide information pertaining to criminal or civil cruelty to animals to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may be made public.

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Committee Amendment "A" (H-379)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, provides that the names of and identifying information about persons who have contracted with or been hired by an entity for the purpose of filming or recording business operations of another entity in order to provide information pertaining to criminal or civil cruelty to animals to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may not be made public unless the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry determines that it is in the best interest of the public.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1508 An Act To Improve Animal Control in Maine

**Accepted Majority
(ONTP) Report**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIPMAN B	ONTP OTP-AM	

This bill establishes a cat license that is optional for cat owners. This bill also directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop strategies to encourage owners of dogs and cats to license their pets, including an advertising and public outreach campaign promoting licensure; offering incentives such as coupons and rewards cards donated by participating businesses; developing an exclusive logo or certificate that may be displayed by supporting businesses; and coordinating with municipalities and other entities authorized to license dogs and cats to disseminate information, notices and flyers promoting licensure.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-175)

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. It removes the optional cat licensing section, changes the bill to a resolve and retains the provision that directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop strategies to encourage owners of dogs to license their pets, including an advertising and public outreach campaign promoting licensure; offering incentives such as coupons and rewards cards donated by participating businesses; developing an exclusive logo or certificate that may be displayed by supporting businesses; and coordinating with municipalities and other entities authorized to license dogs to disseminate information, notices and flyers promoting licensure.

This amendment was not adopted.

LD 1532 An Act To Modernize the Laws Governing Maine Harness Racing

**PUBLIC 231
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAREAN D	OTP-AM	H-478

This bill amends the laws governing harness racing to require meetings of the State Harness Racing Commission as necessary rather than monthly; authorize the commission to adopt rules providing for standards for licensure and conduct of presiding and associate judges; remove a provision directing the annual appointment of judges by the commission; modify budget requirements to account for current processes; eliminate the requirement for the State Harness Racing Commission to provide paper copies of law booklets to licensees; give the commission authority to request and audit financial records; clarify when purse money must be repaid to the commission for redistribution; place the establishment of minimum race date determinations under the purview of the commission; amend the definition of "commercial track" and "race date" and add a definition of "race day"; change the way disbursements