

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



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

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

August 2019

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129TH 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 129th 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 129th Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. 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 910 An Act To Establish as a Priority the Interests of Maine Farmers, Growers and Food Producers ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TERRY M VITELLI E	ONTP	

This bill, which is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposes to require that when the State makes decisions regarding its purchasing of food, the State must consider as a priority in its decision making the interests of Maine farmers, growers and food producers.

LD 920 An Act To Establish the Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PLUECKER B JACKSON T	OTP-AM ONTP	H-192

This bill establishes the Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to provide incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and nutrition assistance programs. Fund recipients must be state-based organizations that support local food producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and nutrition assistance, with priority to organizations that have a demonstrated history of incentivizing the use of federal food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrate the ability to leverage the proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources. The bill provides reporting and audit requirements for recipients to ensure proper use of the funds and appropriates funds to capitalize the fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-192)

This amendment, which is the majority report, incorporates a fiscal note.

This bill was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

LD 939 An Act Regarding the Regulation of Rabbit Production for Local Consumption PUBLIC 73

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAUGHTRY M	OTP-AM	H-88

This bill permits a rabbit producer to sell whole rabbit carcasses without inspection at the farm on which the rabbits were raised, at farmers' markets, by delivery to consumers' homes, to members of community supported agriculture farms with which the rabbit producer has a direct marketing relationship, to locally owned grocery stores and to locally owned restaurants as long as the rabbit producer slaughters fewer than 1,000 rabbits annually and the rabbit producer is registered.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-88)

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

This amendment provides that rules adopted by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to establish requirements for the physical facilities and sanitary processes used by rabbit producers whose rabbit products are exempt from inspection are routine technical rules rather than major substantive rules as in the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 73 permits a rabbit producer to sell whole rabbit carcasses without inspection at the farm on which the rabbits were raised, at farmers' markets, by delivery to consumers' homes, to members of community supported agriculture farms with which the rabbit producer has a direct marketing relationship, to locally owned grocery stores and to locally owned restaurants as long as the rabbit producer slaughters fewer than 1,000 rabbits annually and the rabbit producer is registered.

LD 971 Resolve, To Establish a Specialty Crops Certification Cost-share Pilot Program

**RESOLVE 28
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNPHY M BLACK R	OTP-AM	H-203

This bill establishes the Specialty Crops Certification Cost-share Program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to reimburse farmers for up to 50 percent of the cost of certification of specialty crops under the "Good Agricultural Practices" and "Good Handling Practices" voluntary audit programs under the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. The bill also provides that reimbursement to farmers for certification may not be more than \$500 per farmer per year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-203)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill with a resolve and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. The amendment directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to establish a specialty crops certification cost-share pilot program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and authorizes the department to reimburse qualified farms for up to 50 percent of the cost of certification of specialty crops under the "Good Agricultural Practices" and "Good Handling Practices" voluntary audit programs under the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. The amendment provides that reimbursement of funds under the program is for initial one-time payment and may not be more than \$500 per qualified farm. The amendment also directs the commissioner to monitor the four-year pilot program and to report back to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over agricultural matters no later than December 15, 2023 with findings and recommendations.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2019, chapter 28 directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to establish a specialty crops certification cost-share pilot program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and authorizes the department to reimburse qualified farms for up to 50 percent of the cost of certification of specialty crops under the "Good Agricultural Practices" and "Good Handling Practices" voluntary audit programs under the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. The law provides that reimbursement of funds under the program is for initial one-time payment and may not be more than \$500 per qualified farm. The law also directs the commissioner to monitor the four-year pilot program and to report back to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over agricultural matters no later than December 15, 2023 with findings and recommendations.

Resolve 2019, chapter 28 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 16, 2019.