

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT
BILL SUMMARY



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1098 AN ACT TO CLARIFY DETERMINATION OF Crowley LV/WD
MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MAINE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

SUMMARY: ID 1098 proposed to change the appointment procedure of representatives of public school teachers and state employees to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System. The bill proposed to authorize the Governor to select the teacher representative from lists of certified bargaining agents of 300 or more teachers. Presently the MTA elects the member to the board, but the MTA is not a certified bargaining agent. The MTA is an association of certified bargaining agents. In addition, ID 1098 proposed that the Governor appoint the state employee representative from lists submitted by any certified bargaining group of state employees. Presently, the MSEA selects the state employee representative. The MSEA which represents roughly 9,000 state employees or 90% of all state employees opposed the bill because a state employee representative of 10% of the state employees, could be appointed by the Governor. Opponents also argued that the changes proposed by the bill would "politicize" a fiduciary responsibility.

1111 AN ACT TO AMEND THE COMPETITIVE Nadeau ENACT. PL 194
BIDDING PROCEDURE TO ALLOW NEGOTIATION FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCT
PROCUREMENT

SUMMARY: ID 1111 proposed to waive the requirement that state purchases of petroleum be exclusively conducted by the competitive bid procedure. The purpose of the bill was to enable the State Purchasing Agent to purchase petroleum in a rapidly shifting price market in order to incur price savings not available through long term contracts. In addition, contract prices are often based on terminal prices from the lowest cost terminal. However, escalating clauses permit, among other costs, the added costs of delivering petroleum from or to higher cost terminals.

1112 AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY DIS- Nadeau LV/WD
PCSAI BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY: ID 1112 proposed to allow the Department of Transportation, through the Governor (approval) to sell surplus property no longer necessary for highway use and the Department of Transportation would be empowered to finance the sale of these properties and to sell mortgages on the mortgage market. The purpose of the bill was to encourage the purchase of surplus DOT properties during a period of high interest rates and escalating real estate prices. The bill did not define "property" and could have included trucks and other equipment. There was considerable concern whether the Department of Transportation should serve in the capacity of a financial institution.