

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

Prepared by:

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD: 1544 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OVERSIGHT OF EXPENDITURES FOR JOINT STANDING
COMMITTEES, JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES AND
LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES

PERKINS
PRAY
MARTIN J
MURPHY T

OTP-AM HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 377

S-210 CA H S
S-236 CA PERKINS T H S

SUMMARY:

LD 1544 proposed that the Legislative Council have oversight of budgets of Joint Standing Committees, Joint Select Committees, and Legislative Investigating Committees. The bill proposed detailed criteria to be included in committee budgets.

The sponsors prepared an amendment that would replace the bill. The amendment proposed that no study could be undertaken by a legislative committee unless the Legislative Council approved a budget for that committee.

The Committee amended the original bill with a version that required the Legislative Council to establish budgets, and proposed some criteria for the budgets. The Council was authorized to approve or disapprove studies requested by individual committees but not studies approved by the Legislature.

Senate Amendment "A" repealed the Committee amendment and replaced it with the amendment initially offered by the sponsors. This version passed both houses.

LD: 1556 AN ACT TO PREVENT COMBINING MORE THAN ONE
BOND ISSUE SUBJECT IN A SINGLE BOND ISSUE
BILL

WEBSTER C
SPROUL
HICHBORN
WENTWORTH

HOUSE
SENATE Other
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 331, the original bill which is the same bill as LD 338 presented to the Committee on State Government during the First Regular Session of the 111th Legislature, proposed that every project for which bonds are proposed to be issued and to be approved by the voters shall be submitted to the voters as a single question. The bill prohibits combining different projects into a single question for voter approval unless the projects are very closely related.

The types of projects and bonds that are (excluded) not governed by the prohibitions in the bill include:

Office of Legislative Assistants
State Government

- A. Bonds pledging the faith and credit of the State to guarantee loans by the Finance Authority of Maine;
- B. Bonds issued by the Maine School Building Authority;
- C. Bonds not exceeding \$1,000,000 in total, to insure mortgage loans for the construction and rehabilitation of Indian housing of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indian tribes;
- D. Bonds pledging the faith and credit of the State to guarantee loans under the Maine Veterans Small Business Loan Program; and
- E. Industrial Revenue bonds (FAME, MSHA).

Between 1978 and 1983, there were 9 bond questions with a total cost of \$93,010,000 approved by the public at referendum. The 9 bond questions included a total of 21 projects. These bond questions pertain only to General Fund obligation bonds.

Proponents of the bill argued that the voters should have the opportunity to vote on individual projects and not be required to approve a group of projects when one or more projects within the group were not acceptable to the voters.

Opponents argued that:

1. the proposed legislation could only apply to the 112th Legislature because one legislature cannot bind future legislatures,
2. the Legislature currently can issue bond questions for each individual project without the enabling legislation, and
3. the bill would result in the discrimination against projects in smaller communities in which the general public had very little interest.

LD: 1559 AN ACT RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
 ND: 1202 OVER THE COMPENSATION SYSTEM FOR STATE
 EMPLOYEES

PRAY
 DIAMOND J
 PERKINS
 MURPHY T

HOUSE Enacted
 SENATE Enacted
 GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
 CH # 289

H-208 HA GWADOSKY H S

SUMMARY:

LD 1202, the original bill, proposed to establish a study