

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PART I - STATE GOVERNMENT

JULY 1989

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Sen. Donald E. Esty, Jr.
Sen. David L. Carpenter

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Rep. John S. McCormick, Jr.

* Denotes Chair

Staff: Ted Potter, Legislative Analyst

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1989

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number for each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are abbreviated as follows:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Research Assistant Barbara McGinn, and secretaries: Charlene Brann, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.

B. required all candidates for public office and high level officials to disclose:

1. all business income greater than \$1,000;
2. investment income of more than \$1,000;
3. trust income;
4. debts of more than \$1,000 and names of creditors; and
5. expense income of more than \$50.

LD 1651 An Act to Modify the Recruitment and Retention Adjustment Process

**PUBLIC 418
EMERGENCY**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
BUSTIN	OTP-AM	S-291
LARRIVEE		
LUTHER		
TITCOMB		

SUMMARY

LD 1651 proposed that current law concerning recruitment and retention stipends for state employees be strengthened with respect to collective bargaining. Under the bill, both the State and the bargaining agent must meet within 10 days after notice is provided from the other party requesting the meeting. Under current law, there is no period of time specified when recruitment and retention stipends will be collectively bargained.

The Committee Amendment re-enacted much of current law concerning recruitment and retention stipends, with some changes. The Committee Amendment provided more involvement of employees and agencies in the procedure compared to the original bill.

LD 1666 An Act to Establish the Department of Families and Children

**CARRIED OVER
BY APP/FIN**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
JOSEPH	OTP-AM MAJ	H-621 MAJ REP
MARTIN J	OTP-AM MIN	H-658 JOSEPH
PRAY		
CARTER		

SUMMARY

LD 1666 proposed:

1. To establish a Department of Child and Family Services to begin operating on July 1, 1990.
2. That the Commissioner of the Department be confirmed and sworn no later than July 10, 1989.
3. That the Commissioner immediately begin to develop a transitional plan along with a select committee.
4. To establish the Joint Select Committee on Families and Children to be appointed within 10 days following the effective date of the Act.

5. That the Joint Select Committee with the assistance of the Commissioner and the Commissioners of Human Services, Education, Corrections and Mental Health and Retardation develop a plan for the creation and operation of the department. The Committee would submit an initial report by January 1, 1990, and a final report no later than March 31, 1990.

The Committee amendment retained the focus of the bill and made a number of technical changes. This amendment changed the name of the department to the Department of Families and Children. Under the amendment, the Joint Select Committee on Families and Children is charged with the preparation of a plan to unify and consolidate several state agency activities currently serving families and children into a functionally integrated cabinet level department. The plan will define the department's purpose as the enhancement of human development and functioning of families, the amelioration of family or child disabilities and will outline administrative principles to guide the department's operation.

The Appropriations Committee carried the bill over.

LD 1670 An Act to Establish the Whistleblower Hotline ONTP

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u> PRAY MARTIN J	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u> ONTP	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
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SUMMARY

LD 1670 proposed to establish a "hotline" by which individuals may report abuse of authority, mismanagement, fraud, and waste in State government to the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. The identity of informants would be confidential at the request of the informants. If the Office staff determined that there was reasonable cause to believe that the information reported was correct, the staff is would report this information to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Audit and Program Review.

The Office of Fiscal and Program Review would submit a report by January 1, 1991 concerning the "hotline" and its effectiveness.

Employers would be prohibited from discriminating against any employee who, in good faith, reports abuse, waste, fraud, and mismanagement in State government.

LD 1736 An Act to Change the Status of a Newly Established Position LV/WD

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u> EMERSON TARDY WHITCOMB	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u> LV/WD	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
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SUMMARY

LD 1736 proposed to convert a position, Director of Planning and Information, in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, from the classified service to an unclassified major policy-influencing position serving at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

The bill also created additional Deputy Commissioners as policy-influencing positions within the department.

The bill failed to receive Committee approval because the designation of some positions as main policy influencing positions did not appear to accurately reflect the responsibilities of these positions.