

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MAY 1998

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Sen. James D. Libby

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- INDEF PP*.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
- ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

LD 566**An Act to Provide Computers for Use in the Legislature****DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

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

LD 566 proposed to require the Legislative Council to provide a computer system in the chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives for each member of the Legislature to allow Legislators immediate access to current law, pending legislation, bill status and committee schedules.

LD 1204**An Act to Establish the Maine Disaster Relief Laws****PUBLIC 600**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIDSON	OTP-AM MAJ	H-783
	ONTP MIN	S-483 CLEVELAND

LD 1204 proposed to allow disaster relief workers who are state or municipal employees to leave work for up to 15 days each year when asked by the American Red Cross to respond to a disaster. The bill requires the approval of the employer and allows the employee to be paid at the regular rate without any interruption in benefits.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-783) proposed to limit application of the bill to disasters declared by the governor of a state or territory or the President of the United States. It removes language relating to leave for fire or ambulance calls. It also clarifies that the state or local government granting the leave is not liable under workers' compensation laws for any injuries to the employee while on leave as a disaster service volunteer.

Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-483) proposed to allow state and municipal employees who are certified disaster service volunteers, with the approval of their employers, to use their compensated time off to participate in disaster relief services. It also allows municipal officers to approve of leave or time off for disaster relief as well as the legislative body of the municipality.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 600 allows state and municipal employees who are certified disaster relief volunteers to be granted up to 15 days of paid leave or compensated time off to provide specialized disaster relief services when requested by the American Red Cross. A state employee's leave must be approved by the employee's appointing authority. A municipal employee's leave must be approved by the municipal officers or the legislative body of the municipality. The law applies only to disasters declared by the governor of a state or territory or by the President of the United States. The state or municipal employer is not liable under workers' compensation laws for injuries suffered by employees on such leave.