

# 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  
TRANSPORTATION

MAY 1998

*MEMBERS:*

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*Sen. John T. Jenkins*  
*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy*

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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](http://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.

**Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study Establishing a Rail Authority to Develop Rail Service from Calais to Eastport and Brewer**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODWIN	OTP-AM	H-925 H-946 GOODWIN

LD 1594 proposed to create the Calais to Eastport Rail Authority to establish freight rail service between Calais and Eastport. The bill proposed to transfer to the authority the Department of Transportation's interest in the existing rail line between Calais and Ayers Junction. It also proposed to transfer the Department of Transportation's interest in the existing rail line between Ayers Junction and the Hancock County line to those municipalities through which the line runs. The bill also proposed a \$4,500,000 million bond issue for use by the authority in establishing freight rail service between Calais and Eastport.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-925)** proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to create the Commission to Study Establishing a Rail Authority to Develop Rail Service from Calais to Eastport and Brewer. The commission would study the potential uses of rail service from Calais to Eastport and Brewer along existing railroad rights-of-way owned by the State. It would also make projections as to the volume of traffic along a developed railway, estimate the costs of developing the rights-of-way and review methods of funding and implementing the development of the rights-of-way. The commission would also make recommendations regarding whether a public authority should be established to fund and implement the development of the rights-of-way. The commission would be required to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by January 15, 1999. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-946)** proposed changing the members on the commission to include one member, not 3, representing an economic development agency.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1997, chapter 104 creates the Commission to Study Establishing a Rail Authority to Develop Rail Service from Calais to Eastport and Brewer. The commission must study the potential uses of rail service from Calais to Eastport and Brewer along existing railroad rights-of-way owned by the State. It must also make projections as to the volume of traffic along a developed railway, estimate the costs of developing the rights-of-way and review methods of funding and implementing the development of the rights-of-way. The commission must also make recommendations regarding whether a public authority should be established to fund and implement the development of the rights-of-way. The commission must report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by January 15, 1999.