

# 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  
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

MAY 1998

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. John J. Cleveland*  
*Sen. Richard A. Bennett*

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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.

**LD 890**

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Establish a Reserve Fund**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENNETT	ONTP MAJ	
KERR	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 890 proposed to establish a General Fund reserve fund. The fund would have been used to cover actual or projected General Fund revenue shortfalls in any state fiscal year; for prepayment of outstanding General Fund bonds; for prepayment of any unfunded liabilities of the Maine State Retirement System related to state government employees or teachers; and for major construction projects exceeding \$1,000,000.

**LD 1540**

**An Act to Establish a State Disaster Relief Trust Fund**

**DIED BETWEEN  
BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KERR	OTP-AM MAJ	
	ONTP MIN	

LD 1540 proposed to establish a disaster relief trust fund to be administered by the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match federal disaster assistance funds and provide other local disaster assistance. The trust fund would have been funded by a surcharge on homeowners' and business property insurance policies.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-846)** proposed to strike those provisions of the bill that would have capitalized the Disaster Relief Trust Fund by imposing a surcharge on homeowners' and business property insurance policies. In its place are provisions that would have allowed the fund to receive General Fund appropriations, transfers from the General Fund at the end of a fiscal year in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in any fiscal year, any federal money deposited in the fund and all interest earned on the fund's balance.

The amendment authorized the Disaster Relief Trust Fund to be the first resource utilized when the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 742, regarding emergency proclamation or Title 37-B, section 744, regarding disaster relief, is invoked by the Governor.

The amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1658**

**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Implement a  
Statewide Economic Improvement Strategy**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	ONTP	
MITCHELL E		

LD 1658 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$17,000,000, that would have been used for major facilities improvements, construction and equipment purchases for research and development necessary to implement a statewide economic improvement strategy. These funds would have been used to support research and development

in 5 target areas: aquaculture and marine sciences, biotechnology, composite materials engineering, environmental technologies and information technologies. This investment would allow for the leveraging of substantial federal and private funds. Most of the money would have been spent in Maine on job creation, product development and for goods and services.

**LD 1761**                      **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Make Necessary Improvements to the State House**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E MICHAUD	ONTP	

LD 1761 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$14,000,000, that would have been used to make major repairs and renovations to the State House.

**LD 1810**                      **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$6,000,000 for Critical Marine Infrastructure and Technology Investments**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDTHWAIT ETNIER	ONTP	

LD 1810 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$6,000,000, that would have been used for critical marine infrastructure and technology and proposed to allocate the funds by investing \$1,500,000 in Maine's ports and harbors and by utilizing \$4,500,000 to create a fund within the Maine Science and Technology Foundation.

**LD 1811**                      **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$10,000,000 for Construction of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	ONTP	

LD 1811 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, that would have been used for the construction of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. A General Fund appropriation of \$10,000,000 was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part AAA for the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for the renovation, construction and expansion of facilities at the Oak Grove Coburn campus.