

# 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  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAY 1998

*MEMBERS:*

*Sen. John T. Jenkins, Chair*

*Sen. Anne M. Rand*

*Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

*Rep. Marc J. Vigue, Chair*

*Rep. Rosaire J. Sirois*

*Rep. Richard R. Farnsworth*

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*Rep. Thomas J. Wright*

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*Rep. William E. Bodwell, II*

*Rep. Jay MacDougall*

*Rep. Adam Mack*

*Staff:*

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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 1920**

**An Act to Promote Competitiveness Regarding the Sale of Recreational Vehicles by Allowing Better Discounts**

**PUBLIC 640**

Sponsor(s)  
CAMPBELL

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-853  
S-509 MACKINNON

LD 1920 allows recreational vehicle dealers to receive better discounts when they purchase recreational vehicles in a specified quantity and when the offer is made available to all dealers.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-853)** proposed to expand the available unit discounts to include discounts based on the number of recreational vehicle parts and accessories sold, provided that the discount is available to all dealers.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-509)** proposed to limit the obligation of the manufacturer of recreational vehicles to repurchase inventory of a terminated dealer to the current model year and the model year immediately preceding the current year.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 640 allows vehicle dealers to receive discounts on recreational vehicles, including vehicle parts and accessories, provided the same discount is made available to all dealers. This law also set limits on the obligation of the manufacturer of recreational vehicles to repurchase inventory of a terminated dealer to the current model year and the model year immediately preceding the current year.

**LD 1922**

**An Act to Expand the Uses of the Economic Opportunity Fund**

**PUBLIC 590  
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)  
VIGUE

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-795

LD 1922 proposed to expand the authority of the Department of Economic and Community Development to use approximately \$100,000 from the Economic Opportunity Program fund to allow the Department to use the funds as the required "matching funds" in order to take advantage of a \$250,000.00 Federal grant from the Economic Development Administration. In order to meet the matching fund requirement, the bill proposed to expand the Economic Opportunity Program fund to include grants to local and regional nonprofit organizations to foster economic growth activities, including economic conversion, which is coordinated at the regional and state levels. Current law limits the granting of these funds to municipalities. This expanded authority was requested for years 97-98 and 98-99 only.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-795)** proposed to clarify that the expansion of the use of the Economic Opportunity Fund does not include the use of the fund for loans to private businesses.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 590 allows the Department of Economic and Community Development to use approximately \$100,000 of from the Economic Opportunity Program fund as the required "matching funds" in order to take advantage of a \$250,000 Federal grant from the Economic Development Administration. In order to meet the matching fund requirement, the law expands the use of the Economic Opportunity Program fund to include grants to local and regional nonprofit organizations to foster economic growth activities, including economic conversion, which is coordinated at the regional and state levels. This expanded authority does not include the use of the fund for loans to private businesses, and applies for years 97-98 and 98-99 only. Chapter 590 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 12, 1998.

**LD 1946**                      **An Act to Simplify the Process of Transferring Ownership of a Business Licensed by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology in Cases of Death or Divorce**                      **PUBLIC 622  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> AMERO		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-491
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LD 1946 proposed to allow the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology to reissue a license for a barber or cosmetology shop when the shop ownership changes but at least one of the owners retains ownership.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-491)** proposed to limit the ability of the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology to reissue a license for a shop to situations when the ownership changes as a result of the death or divorce of an owner, and at least one of the owners retains ownership of the shop.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 622 requires the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology to reissue a license for a barber or cosmetology shop when the ownership changes as a result of the death or divorce of an owner but at least one of the owners retains ownership. Chapter 622 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 25, 1998.

**LD 2062**                      **An Act to Provide for the 1998 and 1999 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds**                      **P & S 65  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL E		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2062 proposed to establish the allocations of the state ceiling on the issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 1998 and 1999. This bill allocates the state ceiling among the state-level issuers of tax-exempt bonds.