

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).

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 2107

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$12,000,000 to Enable Maine Public Broadcasting to Implement the Federally Mandated Conversion to Digital Broadcasting **DIED IN CONCURRENCE**

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

LD 2107 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$12,000,000, that would have been used by the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to implement the federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting. A General Fund appropriation of \$2,000,000 was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part EEE to assist the corporation with the conversion.

LD 2110

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Consensus Revenue Forecasting Process **PUBLIC 655**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-554

LD 2110 proposed to amend the laws related to the Revenue Forecasting Committee by adding 2 new members from nonpartisan legislative staff and by requiring that revenue estimates used in biennial budget preparation be those developed by the committee. The bill also proposed funding for a new economist position in the Office of Fiscal and Program Review.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-554) proposed to add only one new member from nonpartisan legislative staff. It also changed the current process for setting final revenue estimates in that the State Budget Officer's authority to adjust the revenue projections recommended by the Revenue Forecasting Committee is removed. In its place, the State Budget Officer would be authorized to convene a meeting of the committee should new data become available. It also removed the funding for the new economist position.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 655 increases the membership of the Revenue Forecasting Committee by adding a new member from nonpartisan legislative staff. The act also changes the current process for setting final revenue estimates in that the State Budget Officer's authority to adjust the revenue projections recommended by the Revenue Forecasting Committee is removed. In its place, the State Budget Officer is authorized to convene a meeting of the committee should new data become available.

LD 2117

An Act to Assist People with Housing Needs **ONTP**

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

LD 2117 proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Maine State Housing Authority's Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to help first time home buyers, low-income homeowners, low-income renters and persons with special needs.

LD 2122 An Act to Support the Long-term Care Steering Committee PUBLIC 665

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL J	OTP-AM	H-837 H-849 NASS H-966 MITCHELL J

LD 2122 proposed to appropriate \$17,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Department of Human Services to provide support staff and reimbursement to the Long-term Care Steering Committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-837) eliminated the General Fund appropriation contained in the bill and proposed to authorize legislative per diem, regional hearings and a 2-day retreat for the Long-term Care Steering Committee. This amendment also directed the Department of Human Services to absorb all expenses related to these activities within the department's existing, budgeted resources.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-849) eliminated authorization for the Long-term Care Steering Committee to hold a 2-day retreat each year.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-966) clarified provisions regarding compensation of members of the Long-term Care Steering Committee by eliminating authorization for member travel reimbursement.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 665 eliminates authorization for member travel reimbursement to meetings of the Long-term Care Steering Committee and requires the Department of Human Services to provide legislative per diem to the members of the committee utilizing existing budgeted resources.

LD 2126 An Act to Provide Funds for the Maine Apprenticeship Program INDEF PP

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

LD 2126 proposed to appropriate funds to ensure delivery of apprenticeship training and journeyman upgrading, registration of programs and apprentices and development of training courses in conjunction with the Department of Education, the Maine Technical College System, adult education programs and others.