

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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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).

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.

Public Law 1997, chapter 564 provides for a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund of \$785,000 to meet Maine National Guard payrolls in fiscal year 1997-98 related to the recent ice storms. All amounts reimbursed from the Federal Government would be deposited in the Maine Rainy Day Fund as soon as practicable. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on January 29, 1998.

LD 2179

An Act Concerning Disaster Assistance in 1998

**PUBLIC 563
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2179 provided financial assistance to businesses that have suffered financial damage as a result of the ice storms of 1998. The assistance would be designed to complement, not replace, other sources of financial assistance, including both loans from banks and loans from the United States Small Business Administration. Assistance is capped at \$10,000 and is available to businesses that have been unable to get financial assistance in a timely manner from other sources. The program would be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, which is authorized to establish repayment terms to fit the needs of a business applying for a loan, including deferrals of principal and interest if necessary.

The bill authorized an expedited loan approval process and provides for up to \$2,000,000 in funds from the Economic Recovery Program to be used for loans. Should the Finance Authority of Maine need additional resources to meet the current Economic Recovery Program, the authority would be authorized to request a transfer, or transfers, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in aggregate in fiscal year 1997-98 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund. Any funds transferred from the Maine Rainy Day Fund would have to be repaid by the authority to the Maine Rainy Day Fund including interest costs.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 563 provides financial assistance to businesses that have suffered financial damage as a result of the ice storms of 1998. The assistance is designed to complement, not replace, other sources of financial assistance, including both loans from banks and loans from the United States Small Business Administration. Assistance is capped at \$10,000 and is available to businesses that have been unable to get financial assistance in a timely manner from other sources. The program is administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, which is authorized to establish repayment terms to fit the needs of a business applying for a loan, including deferrals of principal and interest if necessary.

The bill authorizes an expedited loan approval process and provides for up to \$2,000,000 in funds from the Economic Recovery Program to be used for loans. Should the Finance Authority of Maine need additional resources to meet the current Economic Recovery Program, the authority may request a transfer, or transfers, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in aggregate in fiscal year 1997-98 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund. Any funds transferred from the Maine Rainy Day Fund would have to be repaid by the authority to the Maine Rainy Day Fund including interest costs. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on January 29, 1998.