

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

Rep. George J. Kerr, Chair
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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.

LD 2180

**An Act to Increase the Number of Probation Officers and
Corrections Support Staff**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
MUSE

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2180 proposed a General Fund appropriation to the Department of Corrections to increase by 25 the number of probation officers. The new probation officer positions were to be used in the following manner: Five officers assigned to domestic violence cases; 5 officers assigned to supervised community confinement cases; 4 officers assigned to mental health cases; one officer assigned to Region 1 Drug Court; and 10 officers assigned to areas to be determined by the Commissioner of Corrections. LD 2180 also proposed to increase by 4 the number of support staff for the Division of Probation and Parole and required the commissioner to conduct an assessment of the office space needs for the division and to locate new space based upon the needs identified in the assessment.

A General Fund appropriation of \$802,610 in fiscal year 1998-99 was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part A for 16.5 new positions, and related costs, related to probation and parole.

LD 2184

**An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Battleship USS Maine
Centennial Committee to Restore and Maintain the Monument to
the USS Maine in Davenport Park**

**P & S 90
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
BAKER C
CATHCART

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2184 proposed to appropriate \$20,000 to the Battleship USS Maine Centennial Committee to restore and maintain the USS Maine monument at Davenport Park in Bangor.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 90 appropriates \$20,000 to the Battleship USS Maine Centennial Committee to restore and maintain the USS Maine monument at Davenport Park in Bangor. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on April 15, 1998.

LD 2191

**An Act to Provide State Matching Funds for Federal Disaster
Assistance Relating to the January Ice Storms**

**PUBLIC 565
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
LAWRENCE
MITCHELL E

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2191 proposed to authorize the transfer of \$5,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match public and individual federal disaster assistance. The bill also authorized the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to use all remaining resources available within the General Fund Disaster Assistance account to carry out this Act.

House Amendment "A" (H-789) proposed to authorize the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match public and individual federal disaster assistance in order to provide reimbursement for the purchase of generators.

House Amendment "B" (H-792) proposed to authorize the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match public and individual federal disaster assistance in order to provide reimbursement for the purchase of generators, kerosene space heaters, wood and other emergency heating alternatives.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-455) proposed to authorize the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match public and individual federal disaster assistance in order to provide reimbursement for the purchase of generators. Reimbursement for generators is limited to 50% of the purchase price and a maximum of \$500 per generator.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 565 authorizes the transfer of up to \$5,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund in fiscal year 1997-98 to the Maine Emergency Management Agency for the State's share for disaster assistance associated with the ice storms of 1998. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on February 12, 1998.

**LD 2200 An Act to Provide Funds for Applied Research and Development DIED ON
Relevant to the Maine Economy ADJOURNMENT**

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

LD 2200 proposed to appropriate \$10,000,000 to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund and required the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to take all actions necessary to obtain revenues from sources other than the General Fund within 5 years of the first appropriation.

**LD 2205 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of PUBLIC 718
\$20 Million to Stimulate the Maine Economy through Research and
Development**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	S-523
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2205 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$20,000,000, that would have been used to fund a variety of programs designed to improve the Maine economy through research and development relevant to biotechnology, aquaculture and marine sciences, information technologies, advanced materials engineering and advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture. Thirteen and one-half million dollars of the bond proceeds would be allocated to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System for capital improvements and equipment.