

# 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

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

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**Staff:**

*Jim Clair, Deputy Director*

*Office of Fiscal and Program Review*  
*Room 225, 5 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333*  
*(207)287-1635*



**Maine State Legislature  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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.

2. It would reduce the amount allocated for scholarships to private institutions to \$500,000.
3. It would require a report to be provided to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the Maine First Scholars Program in December 1999.
4. It would extend to 24 months the time after graduation from high school or equivalent that the student is eligible for the Maine First Scholars Program.
5. It would clarify that the rules that the Finance Authority of Maine must adopt to prioritize available funds are routine technical rules.
6. It would further provide that students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average during the year for which they receive a grant under the Maine First Scholars Program. If a student does not achieve the 2.0 grade point average in the student's first semester or does not complete the semester, the student will not receive a Maine First Scholars Program grant for the 2nd semester. If a student does not complete the first year or does not attain a minimum 2.0 grade point average for the first year, then that student must reimburse the Finance Authority of Maine for the full amount of the grant.
7. It would also require that the University of Maine System dedicate any incremental increases of tuition revenue from students in the Maine First Scholars Program to provide scholarships for program participants.

Finally, the amendment proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

While this bill died in concurrence, two of the substantive provisions of this bill were enacted as part of the supplemental appropriations bill. The Maine Technical College System received a \$3,000,000 appropriation in fiscal year 1998-99 to provide funds for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvements (see Public Law 1997, chapter 643, part FF). The Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program received an additional \$4,000,000 appropriation in fiscal year 1998-99 (see Public Law 1997, chapter 643, part HH). The supplemental appropriations bill also increased the minimum amount of scholarships from \$500 to \$1,000 and eliminated the requirement that scholarships for students attending private postsecondary education institutions must be 2 times the amount of scholarships awarded to students attending public postsecondary education institutions.

**LD 2218**

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force On Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly**

**INDEF PP**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

LD 2218 proposed to implement the legislative recommendations of the Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly, established by Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part E. LD 2218 proposed to expand the elderly low-cost drug program to cover those who meet the age and disability requirements and whose income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level. It also directed the Department of Human Services to seek a Medicaid waiver from the federal Health Care Financing Administration to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits for persons 62 years of age and over whose income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level. LD 2218 also required the Department of Human Services to provide educational materials on the elderly low-cost drug program to be distributed by the Bureau of Revenue Services when sending out the program's drug cards to eligible residents.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-1074)** replaced the bill and proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the Department of Human Services to include additional medications as determined by the department to the elderly low-cost drug program. It also directed the department to pursue a Medicaid waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits. While the bill was indefinitely postponed, many of the provisions of the bill were included, in amended form, in Public Law 1997, c. 643, Part RR.

**LD 2224**                      **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$7,000,000 to Construct Water Pollution Control Facilities; to Clean Up Tire Stockpiles; to Investigate, Abate, Clean Up and Mitigate Hazardous Substance Discharges; and to Make Drinking Water System Improvements**                      **P & S 92**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD	OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN	H-1169

LD 2224 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$16,000,000, that would have been used for the following purposes:

1. \$6,000,000 to construct water pollution control facilities, providing the state match for \$10,000,000 in federal funds;
2. \$3,500,000 to close and clean up municipal solid waste landfills;
3. \$1,500,000 to clean up tire stockpiles, which pose a threat to the public health and safety and the environment;
4. \$1,500,000 to investigate, abate, clean up and mitigate threats to the public health and the environment from hazardous substance discharges;
5. \$500,000 to mitigate storm water pollution through establishment of a comprehensive watershed protection program; and
6. \$3,000,000 to address environmental health deficiencies in public water supplies, providing the state match for \$15,000,000 in federal funds.

**Committee of Conference Amendment "A" (H-1169)** proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$7,000,000, that would be used for the following purposes:

1. \$3,350,000 to construct water pollution control facilities, providing the state match for \$10,000,000 in federal funds. Of this amount, \$2,000,000 will be used to construct water pollution control facilities, \$850,000 will be used for the State Revolving Loan Fund and \$500,000 for the Small Community Grant Program;