

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 2253

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$10,000,000 to Finance the Acquisition of Land for Conservation, Outdoor Recreation and Wildlife Habitat Protection and Farmland Preservation and to Access \$5,000,000 in Matching Contributions From Public and Private Sources

DIED IN CONCURRENCE

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE	OTP-AM A	
MITCHELL E	ONTP B	
	OTP-AM C	

LD 2253 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, that would have been used by the Land for Maine's Future Board to acquire lands and easements from willing sellers for public outdoor access and recreation, farmland preservation, conservation and to protect wildlife habitat. To maximize the effectiveness of this investment in Maine's future, the bill proposed that the board secure at least \$5,000,000 in other public and private contributions. Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part FFF provides a General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the Land for Maine's Future Fund which will be matched with at least \$1,500,000 in public and private funding. Up to 20% of the appropriation must be expended for farmland preservation.

LD 2259

An Act to Preserve the State House and to Renovate State Facilities

PUBLIC 788

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E	OTP-AM MAJ	H-939
LAWRENCE	ONTP MIN	S-708 LAWRENCE
		S-779 MICHAUD

LD 2259 proposed to authorize the preservation of the State House, the renovation of the State Office Building, the Tyson Building and the Marquardt Building; and the construction of a new connector between the State Capitol Building and the State Office Building to replace the current tunnel. The bill proposed to increase the bonding authority of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority from \$60,000,000 to \$77,000,000 to accommodate the cost of the project.

The bill also specified the total amount of the securities to be issued for the project and allocated the specific amounts of the proceeds from the sales of the securities to the various projects to be undertaken.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-939) proposed to increase the bonding authority in the original bill by \$6,000,000, from \$77,000,000 to \$83,000,000. It proposed to increase the total amount of the securities to be issued for the state facilities projects by \$6,000,000, to \$52,500,000, in order to increase the allocation for the renovation and preservation of the State House. It also proposed to clarify that the scope of each project for the Legislative Branch must be approved by a majority vote of the Legislative Council and provided in writing to the authority. Finally, it added a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-708) proposed to clarify the minimum amount of space in the State Office Building to be dedicated to legislative use, required majority vote of the Legislative Council to determine the use of the space and authorized the Legislative Council to direct the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to enter into contracts to maintain and improve that space.

Senate Amendment "C" (S-779) proposed to change the statutory requirement of 2/3 vote of the Legislature to a majority vote of the Legislature to approve actions of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 788 authorizes the preservation of the State House, the renovation of the State Office Building, the Tyson Building and the Marquardt Building; and the construction of a new connector between the State Capitol Building and the State Office Building to replace the current tunnel. The act increases the total bonding authority of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority from \$60,000,000 to \$83,000,000 to accommodate the cost of the project, specifies that the total amount of the securities to be issued for the project is \$52,500,000 and allocates the specific amounts of the proceeds from the sales of the securities to the various projects to be undertaken.

The act clarifies that the scope of each project for the Legislative Branch must be approved by a majority vote of the Legislative Council and provided in writing to the authority. It also clarifies the minimum amount of space in the State Office Building to be dedicated to legislative use, requires majority vote of the Legislative Council to determine the use of the space and authorizes the Legislative Council to direct the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to enter into contracts to maintain and improve that space.

Finally, the act changes the statutory requirement of 2/3 vote of the Legislature to a majority vote of the Legislature to approve actions of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority.

LD 2297 An Act Relating to the Taxation of Certain Federal Entities, the PUBLIC 729
Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program, the
Administration of the Tax Laws and to Make a Technical
Correction

Sponsor(s) | Committee Report | Amendments Adopted

LD 2297, Part A, provided that the sales tax exemption for governmental entities does not apply to corporations formed under Part E of the federal Farm Credit Act of 1971.

Part B provided that natural gas pipelines and certain property used in the production or generation of electricity are not eligible for reimbursement for taxes paid on certain business property.

Part C provided funds for the acquisition of a tax modeling system and provides authority to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to contract for tax auditing services for businesses whose primary locations are outside of the State.

Part D corrected an error in the retroactivity clause of Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part HHH, section 10. The intent of the Legislature was that only Part HHH apply retroactively. The bill ensures that the retroactivity provision applies only to Part HHH.