

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

JULY 2000

Staff:

J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

**Office of Fiscal and Program Review
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TO: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

DATE: July, 2000

RE: **BILL SUMMARIES, 119th LEGISLATURE, 2nd REGULAR SESSION**

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs during the 2nd Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The summary describes each bill or order and relevant amendments as well as the final action. Also included is a statistical summary of bill activity by the committee. Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the 2nd Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000. Joint Orders are effective when passed.

The bill summaries for your committee also include 4 bills that, although discussed in work sessions, were never referred. LD's 2589, 2646, 2664 and 2692 were discussed as part of your committee process and are therefore included in this document for your information.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the committee this session. It is organized by bill (LD) number and two indices are located at the back of the document that group bills by subject and by LD number. 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
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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
READ AND PASSED Joint Order passed by the House and Senate
PASSED AS AMENDED..... Joint Order passed as amendment by the House and Senate

A complete summary of bills for all committees will be available in the very near future. Copies will be on file in the Law and Legislative Reference Library and Senate and House offices. You will also soon be able to access these bill summaries from our website.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

LD 135**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$25,000,000 to Help Increase Fish Production at the State Hatcheries**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUNLAP KILKELLY	ONTP	

LD 135 proposed a bond issue in the amount of \$25,000,000 that would have been used by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to improve and expand fish hatcheries.

LD 154**An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

P & S 92

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAYO MURRAY	OTP-AM	H-772

LD 154 proposed to appropriate \$90,000 and \$60,000 to the Department of Labor in fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01, respectively, for the establishment of an audio information service for people who are blind or visually impaired and other people in the State who are unable to access printed information due to a disability.

Committee Amendment "A " (H-772) proposed to eliminate the original request in fiscal year 1999-00 of \$90,000 and lower the original request for fiscal year 2000-01 from \$60,000 to \$45,000.

The fiscal year 2000-01 appropriation would be used by the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in conjunction with the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation, to fund a program, Maine Airs, that would have daily and weekly newspapers read for listening by the more than 12,000 residents of the State who are print-disabled.

This amendment also proposed to clarify that this funding is provided on a one-time basis and would have required the Department of Labor to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs on the status of the program.

Enacted Law Summary:

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 92 provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$45,000 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Department of Labor to establish an audio information service through the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired for people who are blind or visually impaired and other people in the State who are unable to access printed information due to a disability. The Department of Labor is also required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs on the status of the Maine Airs program by February 2, 2001.