

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

JULY 1999

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Staff:

Susan Johannesman, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*



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 NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

CARRIED OVER.....Bill carried over to Second Regular Session
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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

LD 112

Resolve, to Study Current Regulations Imposed on Small Businesses to Require Greater Efficiency

**RESOLVE 74
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
AHEARNE

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-79
S-448 MICHAUD

LD 112 proposed to establish the Task Force to Study the Effect of Government Regulation on Small Businesses.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-79) proposed to clarify the intent of the original resolve by specifying the duties of the task force. This amendment also added an appropriation section and a fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-448) proposed to correct the appointment of the chairs of the Task Force to Study the Effect of Government Regulation on Small Businesses. It also proposed to limit resulting legislation to a single bill and correct the appropriation.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 74 established the Task Force to Study the Effect of Government Regulation on Small Businesses. Chapter 74 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 17, 1999.

LD 168

An Act to License Home Inspectors

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
HARRIMAN

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 168 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill proposes to establish the Maine Board of Home Inspectors. The bill creates 3 categories of licensure: apprentice inspector, home inspector and professional inspector. Each category of licensure has specific educational and experimental requirements. There is a provision for grandfathering individuals working as home inspectors before January 1, 2001 provided they meet the eligibility requirements set forth in the law.

The fee structure for application, licensure, renewal and examination will be determined by the board. Continuing education requirements will also be established by the board for licensure renewal.

LD 178

An Act to Appropriate Block Grants for Regional Tourism Promotion

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
MILLS

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 178 proposed to establish the Regional Tourism Promotion Grant Program to be administered by the Office of Tourism and Community Development within the Department of Economic and Community Development. Through the grant program, organizations within eight tourism regions of the State would receive grants of up to \$100,000 per year to promote tourism in the regions. The bill listed criteria for determining eligibility for the grants. The program would be funded primarily by directing the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development

to use \$400,000 of the budget of the Office of Tourism and Community Development for grants. The program would be eligible to receive additional funds from other sources.

LD 306 **Resolve, to Honor Farmers' Contributions to Maine's Agricultural Heritage and Promote Tourism** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LONGLEY COWGER	ONTP	

LD 306 proposed to direct the Office of Tourism and Community Development to work with the Maine Promotion Council Cooperative to develop strategies to promote tourism in inland, rural areas of the State with an agricultural heritage.

LD 324 **An Act to Allow Assistants to Physicians to Perform Certain Tasks outside the Direct Supervision of the Physicians** **PUBLIC 159**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDTHWAIT	OTP	

LD 324 proposed to amend the law that allows an assistant to a physician or a surgeon to perform certain activities only when the physician or surgeon has direct control over the assistant and is in the same room with the assistant while the procedure is being performed.

This bill proposed to continue to require that an assistant to a physician or a surgeon may only perform certain activities when the assistant is under the control of the physician or surgeon, but would allow the assistant to perform those activities outside of the direct presence of the physician or surgeon, instead requiring only that the physician or surgeon be present on the premises.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 159 requires that an assistant to a physician or a surgeon may only perform certain activities when the assistant is under the control of the physician or surgeon who must be present on the premises at the time the activities are performed.

LD 421 **An Act to Amend the Membership of the State Board of Funeral Service** **PUBLIC 91**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY MICHAUD	OTP-AM	H-118

LD 421 proposed to increase the membership of the State Board of Funeral Service from 8 members to 9 members by adding a member representing the interests of senior citizens and chosen from a list provided by a national organization of retired persons such as the American Association of Retired Persons.