

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TAXATION

AUGUST 1999

*Staff:*

*Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst*

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**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin, Chair  
Sen. Beverly C. Daggett  
Sen. S. Peter Mills*

*Rep. Kenneth T. Gagnon, Chair  
Rep. Bonnie Green  
Rep. Thomas M. Davidson  
Rep. Patrick Colwell  
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Rep. David G. Lemoine  
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Rep. Eleanor M. Murphy  
Rep. John T. Buck  
Rep. Peter E. Cianchette*



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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation  
From: Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst  
Date: August, 1999  
Re: Bill Summaries, 119th Legislature, 1st 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 Taxation during the 1st 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 1st Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999. Joint orders are effective when passed.

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:

*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*  
*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 amended 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 239**                      **An Act to Amend the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law**                      **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| O'GARA            | ONTP      MAJ           |                           |
| MACK              | OTP-AM    MIN           |                           |

LD 239 proposed to remove from participation in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law any forest land that is owned by a public municipal corporation that is located outside the limits of that public municipal corporation.

**LD 251**                      **An Act to Increase the Snowmobile Trail Fund**                      **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MARTIN            | ONTP                    |                           |

LD 251 proposed to increase from .5% to 1.0% the amount set aside from the excise tax on internal combustion fuel for the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

**LD 254**                      **An Act to Exempt Children's Clothing from Sales Tax**                      **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| LOVETT            | ONTP                    |                           |

LD 254 proposed to exempt clothing in children’s sizes from the sales tax.

**LD 262**                      **An Act to Amend the BETR Program Regarding Reimbursement and Eligibility**                      **INDEF PP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GAGNON            | OTP-AM    MAJ           |                           |
| CAREY             | ONTP      MIN           |                           |

LD 262 proposed to amend the business equipment tax reimbursement (BETR) program to limit reimbursement to the taxes paid on 90% of the value of the eligible property. It also proposed to reduce the number of years that eligible property is subject to reimbursement from 12 years to 10 years.

**LD 263**                      **An Act to Increase the Cigarette Tax 63 Cents Per Pack**                      **INDEF PP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GAGNON            | ONTP                    |                           |
| PINGREE           |                         |                           |