

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
Rep. Stephen S. Stanley
Rep. David G. Lemoine
Rep. Kenneth F. Lemont
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 OVERBill 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 412

**An Act to Include Property in a Tax Increment Financing District
Approved after October 1, 1999 in a Municipality's State Valuation for
Purposes of Education Funding**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 412 proposed to provide that property in a tax increment financing district would be included in state valuation for purposes of calculating and distributing state education funding.

LD 414

**An Act to Allow a Municipality to Request a Joint Check from the
Circuit Breaker Program in the Event of Nonpayment of Taxes**

ONTP

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

LD 414 proposed to permit a municipality to request that a check issued in payment of a claim under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program be issued payable jointly to the claimant and to the municipality if a tax lien has been filed by the municipality in the registry of deeds on the property that is the basis of the claim. A municipality that requested a joint check would have been required to provide annually a list of all liens against homestead property to the Bureau of Revenue Services.

LD 415

**An Act to Limit a Property Owner's Tax Liability to the Time Prior to
Sale of the Property**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RUHLIN LEMONT	ONTP	

LD 415 proposed to limit a property owner's tax liability for real estate and personal property to the prorated share on the date of transfer.

LD 417

**An Act to Reduce the Threshold at which the State Sales Tax is
Automatically Reduced**

ONTP

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

LD 417 would have changed the trigger for a 1/2% reduction in the sales tax from an 8% increase in General Fund revenues on a base-to-base comparison to 5% increase in General Fund revenues on a base-to-base comparison. The bill would also have made technical changes to reflect the reduction of the sales tax from 6% to 5 1/2% on October 1, 1998.