

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TAXATION

AUGUST 1999

*Staff:*

*Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
5 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0005  
(207)287-1635*

**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*



MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
5 State House Station  
Augusta Maine 04333-0005  
TEL: (207) 287-1635  
FAX: (207) 287-6469

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 726**                      **An Act to Increase the Homestead Exemption**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SULLIVAN DAGGETT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
--	--	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 726 proposed to increase the homestead exemption from \$7,000 to \$10,000.

**LD 731**                      **An Act to Exclude the Purchase and Lease of Telecommunications and Internet Equipment from Sales and Use Tax**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MURPHY T		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
-------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 731 proposed to exempt from sales or use tax the sale or lease of telecommunications equipment to a provider of telecommunications service and the sale or lease of computer or computer network equipment to a commercial Internet service provider.

**LD 753**                      **An Act to Amend the Homestead Exemption to Include Homeowners' Cooperatives**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 753 proposed to allow persons whose permanent residence is part of an affordable cooperative housing corporation to qualify for the homestead exemption.

**LD 789**                      **An Act to Reduce the Amount of Property Acquired by Municipalities for Nonpayment of Property Tax**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 789 proposed to reduce the amount of residential property acquired by municipalities for nonpayment of taxes by establishing procedures for the development of payment plans both before and after residential property is acquired by a municipality if the person who is delinquent in payment of taxes or that person's surviving spouse continues to reside on the property. Municipalities would be required to establish procedures for payment plans and to notify persons who are delinquent of those procedures and the availability of property tax relief programs. The municipality would be permitted to set off against delinquent taxes amounts owed by the municipality to the person who is delinquent. A former owner or the former owner's surviving spouse would be permitted to buy back the property by payment of delinquent taxes, interest and costs at any time before the property is sold to a 3rd party. Municipalities that sell tax-acquired property would be required to pay the funds received in excess of delinquent taxes, interest and costs to the former owner or the former owner's surviving spouse or heirs.