

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TAXATION**

AUGUST 1999

MEMBERS:

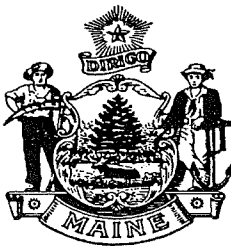
*Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin, Chair
Sen. Beverly C. Daggett
Sen. S. Peter Mills*

*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*

Staff:

Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst

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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
ONT P 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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN CASSIDY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 817 proposed to require that 90% of estate taxes be paid to the county where the decedent's property was located and used to reduce the county tax rate.

LD 832 An Act to Reduce the Sales Tax and Review All Tax-exempt Entities ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN CASSIDY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 832 proposed to reduce to 5% the general sales tax and the sales tax on liquor and food sold in licensed establishments. The bill would also have required every organization that is now exempt from the sales tax to reapply to the Bureau of Revenue Service within 120 days or lose exempt status.

See also the “Part 2” budget bill, PL 1999, chapter 401, Part X.

LD 841 An Act to Exempt All Business Equipment from Property Tax ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KASPRZAK CAREY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 841 proposed to provide a property tax exemption for all business property and repeal the business equipment tax reimbursement (BETR) program that reimburses taxpayers for property taxes paid on business property first placed in service after April 1, 1995.

LD 858 An Act to Increase Eligibility for the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCNEIL AMERO	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 858 proposed to expand eligibility for the elderly low-cost drug program to 185% of the federal poverty line. It also proposed to extend eligibility to households that spend at least 25 % of their income on unreimbursed direct medical expenses for prescription drugs and whose incomes do not exceed 25% more than standard eligibility levels.

Bills relating to the elderly low cost drug program were heard jointly with the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. Please see bills indexed for that Committee.

See also the “Part 2” budget bill, PL 1999, chapter 401, Part KKK.