

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

*Office of Fiscal and Program Review
5 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0005
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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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SKOGLUND	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 926 proposed to exempt watercraft that are not used during the year from the excise tax on watercraft. See also LD 1845.

LD 927 An Act to Establish Property Tax Relief for the State's Senior Citizens ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SCHNEIDER MILLS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 927 proposed to freeze property taxes on homesteads of a permanent resident of the state who is 65 years of age or older and when any adults living on the property, other than the property owner's spouse, are 65 years of age.

LD 928 An Act to Allow Sales Tax Collectors to Keep a Portion of Revenue Collected for the State ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LEMONT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 928 proposed to allow a retailer to retain a fee for collecting sales tax. The fee permitted would have been \$10 for a retailer that collects \$500 sales tax revenue or less per month and \$25 for a retailer who collects more than \$500 sales tax revenue per month.

LD 934 An Act to Prohibit Tax Revenues from Being Diverted from the Unorganized Territories ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JOY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 934 proposed to prohibit property tax revenues from unorganized territories from being diverted to other uses without request of the Legislature and approval of 2/3 of the voters in the unorganized territories.

LD 935 An Act to Set Penalties for the Late Filing of the Tree Growth Tax Reimbursement ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STEDMAN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 935 proposed to impose a penalty for late filers for tree growth property tax reimbursement of 1% of the reimbursement for each day that the claim is overdue rather than barring reimbursement completely. See also LD 1224.