

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

JULY 1999

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Sen. Susan W. Longley
Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

Public Law 1999, chapter 443 establishes the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 1999 and 2000. Under federal law, a maximum of \$150,000,000 in tax-exempt bonds benefiting private individuals or entities may be issued in Maine each year

Chapter 443 changes membership of the group that may allocate and reallocate with respect to the state ceiling during any time that the Legislature is not in session, and requires that bonds issued using an allocation of the state ceiling be used for the benefit of Maine individuals, communities or businesses and requires bond issuers to annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on who benefited from the state ceiling.

An issuer or lender is required to provide, prior to receiving an allocation of the state ceiling for the issuance of education loans, examples of the disclosures to be made to loan recipients or obligors. Federally authorized student loans purchased or originated with proceeds of tax-exempt bonds using a portion of the state ceiling must be guaranteed by the Finance Authority of Maine until July 15, 2000. The Finance Authority of Maine must use its best efforts to provide competitive rates for the guarantee function. Chapter 443 also creates the requirement that the members of the Maine Educational Loan Authority are subject to confirmation by the Legislature.

Chapter 443 establishes the Loans to Lenders Pilot Program to study the feasibility of and implement a pilot program by which private lending institutions may access a portion of the proceeds of bonds issued using an allocation of the state ceiling allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine for education loans. The authority of the Finance Authority of Maine to issue bonds under the Loans to Lenders Pilot Program terminates on March 1, 2000.

Chapter 443 also establishes the Commission on the State Ceiling on Tax-exempt Bonds to study the allocation of the state ceiling on tax-exempt bonds. The commission shall report its findings and proposed legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development by January 14, 2000.

Chapter 443 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 9, 1999.

LD 1233

An Act to Provide for Automated Restrooms

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
POVICH

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1233 proposed to require that all new commercial or institutional buildings be equipped with automated restrooms.

LD 1253

An Act to Create the Board of Cemetery and Crematory Services

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
CAMPBELL

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1253 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill proposes to create the Board of Cemetery and Crematory Services to assist the Attorney General in the investigation of consumer complaints concerning cemeteries and crematories and to work closely with the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health and Office of Data Research and Vital Statistics on issues relating to cemetery and crematory operations.