

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Taxation*

July 2003

Members:

*Sen. Stephen S. Stanley, Chair
Sen. Ethan Strimling
Sen. Richard A. Nass*

*Rep. David G. Lemoine, Chair
Rep. Joseph C. Perry
Rep. Bernard E. McGowan
Rep. Deborah L. Simpson
Rep. Arthur L. Lerman
Rep. Edward J. Suslovic
Rep. Harold A. Clough
Rep. Jonathan T. E. Courtney
Rep. Earle L. McCormick
Rep. Joshua A. Tardy*

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP-ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

LD 174**An Act to Restructure the Maine Income Tax Law****ONTP**

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

LD 174 was a concept draft that proposed to restructure the Maine Income Tax Law.

LD 179**An Act to Restructure the Tax System and Make the Restructured System Subject to Referendum****ONTP**

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

LD 179 was a concept draft that proposed to restructure the system of taxation in Maine. The restructured system would have needed to be approved at a statewide referendum prior to implementation.

LD 184**An Act to Clarify the Ability of the Maine Forest Service and Tax Assessors to View Private Landowners' Forest Management Plans****PUBLIC 30**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JODREY	OTP-AM	H-20

LD 184 proposed to restrict access by the local assessor and the Director of the Bureau of Forestry to a copy of a forest management and harvest plan for land taxed pursuant to the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law by providing that the plan must be available only for view.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-20) proposed to permit a tax assessor or the Director of the Bureau of Forestry to review a forest management plan. The review would permit the assessor or the director to see or possess the plan for a reasonable period of time to verify compliance with a forest management plan under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. Upon completion of the review, the plan would be returned to the owner or the owner's agent.

Enacted law summary:

Public Law 2003, chapter 30 permits a tax assessor or the Director of the Bureau of Forestry to see or possess a forest management plan for a reasonable period of time to verify compliance with a forest management plan under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. Upon completion of the review, the plan would be returned to the owner or the owner's agent.