

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*

Staff:

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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 251**An Act Concerning Tax-acquired Property****ONTP**

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

LD 251 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. A municipality that sells a 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. See also LD 937.

LD 256**An Act to Establish and Permit Medical Savings Accounts****ONTP**

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

LD 256 proposed to allow residents of the State to establish medical savings accounts for payment of eligible medical expenses, including the payment of health insurance premiums and deductibles. Contributions to, interest earned on and qualified withdrawals from medical savings accounts would be exempt from Maine state income tax. See also LD 950.

LD 259**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Assessment of Property Taxes in the Event of a Change of Ownership of the Property****ONTP**

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

LD 259 proposed to exempt the previous owner of property from liability for any taxes billed after the change in ownership as long as the previous owner provides certain information, such as a copy of the executed deed, to the assessor. See also LDs 261 and 600.