

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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:**

*Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Fiscal and Program Review  
5 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0005  
(207) 287-1635*

# 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 378**

**An Act to Enhance the Maine Earned Income Tax Credit**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RICHARDSON, J TREAT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
---	---------------------------------	---------------------------

LD 378 proposed to expand the Maine earned income tax credit by increasing it to 30% of the federal credit and by making it refundable. See also LDs 1394 and 1395 and LD 1319 summarized under the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

**LD 382**

**An Act to Enhance the Maine the Maine Residents Property Tax Program**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RICHARDSON, J STANLEY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
---	---------------------------------	---------------------------

LD 382 proposed to expand eligibility and benefits under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program. "Rent constituting property taxes accrued for a nonelderly household" would be increased from 18% to 25% of gross rent. Income eligibility limitations would be increased to \$39,000 for single-member households and \$60,000 for multiple-member households. Reimbursement would be made available for 50% of property taxes between 3% and 6% of income and 100% of property taxes over 6% of income. The maximum benefit would increase from \$1,000 to \$6,000.

**LD 403**

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Deduction of Pension and Retirement Benefits from State Income Tax**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GAGNON SIMPSON	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
--	---------------------------------	---------------------------

LD 403 proposed to increase the deduction to \$8,000 beginning January 1, 2004 and \$1,000 each subsequent year until the amount of the deduction is \$17,000 in 2013. In 2014 and after the deduction would have increased to \$20,000.