

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

*Second Regular Session and
Second Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

May 2004

Staff:

*Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst
Lucia Nixon, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670*

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Sen. Kenneth F. Lemont
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Maine State Legislature



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

*121st Maine Legislature
Second Regular Session and
Second Special 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

- 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
- P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PASSED..... Joint Order passed in both bodies
- 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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is April 30, 2004; and non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Special Session is July 30, 2004. Four bills (LD's 1572, 1629, 1636 and 1637) that were considered at the First Special Session in August 2003 are also included in these summaries.

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

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 212 **Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State To Study the Feasibility of Instant Run-off Voting** **RESOLVE 117**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BULL	OTP-AM MAJ	H-751
DAGGETT	ONTP MIN	

LD 212 proposed to create the instant run-off voting method of determining winners in elections for President, Vice President, United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, state Senator and state Representative. The method would simulate the ballot counts that would occur if all voters participated in a series of run-off elections that allows a voter to rank candidates according to that voter's preferences. Each voter would have only one vote for each office, and the ballot count would be the same as if voters participated in a series of run-off elections, with the weakest candidate eliminated after each round of counting. There would be an initial round of counting. If more than 2 candidates receive votes after the initial round, the Secretary of State would conduct an instant run-off round. In this instant run-off round, the Secretary of State would eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes. A ballot that would rank this eliminated candidate as the highest-ranked candidate would be counted as a vote for the highest-ranked, advancing candidate on that ballot. An advancing candidate would be a candidate who has not been eliminated. This process of counting votes and eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes would continue until 2 candidates remain. The candidate with the most votes would be declared the winner.

For the presidential and vice-presidential elections, the instant run-off voting method would be conducted to determine winners for the entire State as well as in each congressional district.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-751) proposed to replace the bill and create a resolve that would direct the Secretary of State to study the feasibility of implementing a system of instant run-off voting for the conduct of elections in the State.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2003, chapter 117 directs the Secretary of State to study the feasibility of implementing a system of instant run-off voting for the conduct of elections in the State.

LD 507 **Resolve, To Allow the Town of Dennysville To Sue the State and the Atlantic Salmon Commission for Breach of Contract** **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GOODWIN	ONTP	

LD 507
This resolve proposed to authorize the Town of Dennysville to sue the State for damages resulting from the Atlantic Salmon Commission's failure to ensure that after placing the weir in the Dennysville River water would be able to be drawn from the dry hydrant.