

# 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:*

*Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst*

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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](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 530**

**An Act To Bring Equity to the Vehicle Excise Tax**

**ONTP**

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

LD 530 proposed to require that the excise tax for all motor vehicles and campers be based upon the purchase price of the vehicle rather than the maker’s list price. Either the original bill of sale or the state sales tax document could be used to certify the purchase price. See also LD 204.

**LD 542**

**Resolve, To Reduce the State Valuation for the Town of Hermon**

**RESOLVE 81**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL TREADWELL	OTP-AM	S-101

LD 542 proposed to authorize the Town of Hermon to seek an adjustment of its state valuation for the year 2003 without meeting the August 1st filing deadline set forth in current law.

**Committee Amendment “A” (S-101)** proposed a mechanism for adjustment of general purpose aid to local schools for the Town of Hermon if an adjustment is made to its 2003 state valuation.

***Enacted law summary:***

Resolve 2003, chapter 81 authorizes the Town of Hermon to seek an adjustment of its state valuation for the year 2003 without meeting the August 1st filing deadline set forth in current law and provides a mechanism for adjustment of general purpose aid to local schools for the Town of Hermon if an adjustment is made.

**LD 545**

**An Act To Provide Federal Civil Service Retirees the Same State Income Tax Protection as Federal Military Service Retirees**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDMONDS SMITH, W	ONTP	

LD 545 proposed to allow retirees receiving retirement benefits under the federal Civil Service Retirement System to deduct up to \$6,000 of those retirement benefits from their adjusted gross income on their state income tax return without having to offset that deduction by any Social Security benefits they are also receiving.

**LD 551**

**An Act To Suspend Property Tax Abatement Appeals When the Taxpayer Fails To Pay Taxes**

**PUBLIC 72  
EMERGENCY**