

# **MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE**

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
State and Local Government*

*July 2003*

**Members:**

*Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair  
Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III  
Sen. Carolyn M. Gilman*

*Rep. Janet L. McLaughlin, Chair*

*Rep. George H. Bunker, Jr.*

*Rep. Christopher R. Barstow*

*Rep. Susanne P. Ketterer*

*Rep. Edward J. Suslovic*

*Rep. Anita Peavey-Haskell*

*Rep. Robert H. Crosthwaite*

*Rep. Stephen Bowen*

*Rep. Oscar C. Stone*

*Rep. Gary E. Sukeforth*

**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](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:

CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212 .....	Bills carried over to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Regular Session
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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

## ***Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government***

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-308)** proposed to add an appropriations section to the bill.

### ***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 316 is submitted by the State House and Capitol Commission as a result of its study pursuant to Resolve 2001, chapter 110. It adds to the duties of the commission the responsibility, subject to available funding, of providing for the development and maintenance of a living memorial garden in Capitol Park. The commission may use public and private funds for that purpose.

**LD 489**

**Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services To Sell Certain Real Estate Lands of the Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GLYNN	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 489 proposed to require the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to sell a portion of the Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-289)**, which was not adopted, was the minority report of the committee and proposed to incorporate a fiscal note.

**LD 562**

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Elect 2 Senators from Each County**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOY	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 562 proposed a constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the Senate from no more than 35 members to 32 members, 2 Senators from each county. Under the proposed bill, the redrawing of district lines would have occurred during the regularly scheduled redistricting following the decennial census. The bill proposed that the redistricting be completed in 2004.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-225)**, which was the minority report of the committee, proposed to incorporate a fiscal note. This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 568**

**Resolve, To Study the Impact of a Statewide System for the Electronic Filing of Deeds**

**ONTP**

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

## ***Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government***

LD 568, which was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to establish a study to conduct and evaluate the short-term and long-term impact of a statewide system for electronic filing of deeds, considering factors such as immediate costs to the State and to communities, and the long-term costs or savings.

**LD 606**

**An Act To Improve State Accounting Procedures**

**PUBLIC 83  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOUGLASS	OTP-AM	MAJ	S-27
FISCHER	ONTP	MIN	

LD 606 proposed to require the Department of Audit to:

1. Beginning July 31, 2003, report annually to the Legislature the amount of cash on hand at the end of each fiscal year for each department of State Government;
2. Account for federal grants at the end of each fiscal year to the Legislature and explain the reimbursement of state officers for any items paid out of the General Fund;
3. Revise and update on a regular basis the accounting manual maintained by the Department of Audit;
4. Provide training to appropriate personnel across department lines to establish systemwide uniform financial practices;
5. Require all audits performed by the Department of Audit over \$1,000,000 to be performed by a certified public accountant; and
6. Establish an audit practice review board of volunteers from the private sector to give advice to the State on best practices and accounting updates.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-27)**, which was the majority report of the committee, proposed to replace the original bill. The amendment proposed to require the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and the State Controller to develop a financial management and accounting practices manual for state agencies, develop and implement a training program for state agencies on uniform financial management and accounting practices and report to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by January 1, 2004 on the progress of these initiatives.

### ***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 83 requires the Commissioner of Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the State Controller to develop a financial management and accounting practices manual for state agencies, develop and implement a training program for state agencies on uniform financial management and accounting practices and report to the state and local government committee by January 1, 2004 on the progress of these initiatives.

Public Law 2003, chapter 83 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 25, 2003.