

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Business, Research and Economic Development*

July 2003

Members:

Sen. Lynn Bromley, Chair

Sen. Christopher G. L. Hall

Sen. Kevin L. Shorey

Rep. Nancy B. Sullivan, Chair

Rep. Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien

Rep. Guy J. Duprey, Jr.

Rep. Edward Pellon

Rep. Nancy E. Smith

Rep. Susan M. Austin

Rep. Robert A. Berube

Rep. Lawrence E. Jacobsen

Rep. Christopher Rector

Rep. William T. Rogers, Jr.

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

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

- 3. Eliminate the prohibition on associations by any optometrist with a person, firm or corporation who is not a registered optometrist;
- 4. Permit optometrists to practice under a trade name like other medical professionals; and
- 5. Authorize contracts for the practice of optometry in or on the premises of an optical shop or commercial or mercantile establishment and permit the joint marketing of the optometrist and mercantile or retail establishment.

LD 663

An Act To Create Economic Development Zones

ONTP

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

LD 663 proposed to create the Economic Development Zone Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism and Community Development. The purpose of the program would have been to identify those areas of the State with high unemployment as economic development zones and to coordinate the department's economic development expenditures to ensure that at least 45% of the department's economic development expenditures are directed to those economic development zones and used for economic development activities that reduce unemployment in those areas.

The bill also proposed to require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to provisionally adopt major substantive rules implementing the program and submit them to the Legislature for review no later than January 1, 2004.

Lastly, the bill proposed to repeal this program January 1, 2007.

LD 682

An Act To Change the Membership of the Plumbers' Examining Board To Include a Local Plumbing Inspector

PUBLIC 107

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'NEIL	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-110 SULLIVAN H-89

LD 682 proposed to expand the membership of the Plumbers' Examining Board to include one member who is a local plumbing inspector.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-89), which was the committee's majority report and was adopted, proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to change the membership of the Plumbers' Examining Board by substituting a local plumbing inspector who has been engaged in plumbing inspections for at least 4 years and is employed by a municipality for one of the journeyman plumbers currently on the board. The amendment proposed to take effect on September 24, 2004, which is the expiration date of the term of the current board member who is a local plumbing inspector.

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-110) proposed to change the effective date of the bill from September 24, 2004 to June 19, 2005.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 107 changes the membership of the Plumbers' Examining Board by substituting a local plumbing inspector who has been engaged in plumbing inspections for at least 4 years and is employed by a municipality for one of the journeyman plumbers currently on the board. The law takes effect on June 19, 2005. The law should be read in conjunction with Public Law 2003, chapter 446 which also affects the composition of the Plumbers' Examining Board.

LD 688 **An Act To Provide Incentives for Municipalities To Adopt a Building Rehabilitation Code** **ONTP**

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

LD 688 proposed to provide that a municipality that adopts the rehabilitation component of a nationally recognized building code must be given preference for economic development grants administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

This bill was worked in conjunction with LD 1025, which concerned adoption of statewide codes and was carried over.

LD 692 **An Act To Protect Consumer Privacy Rights** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE TREAT		

LD 692 proposes to prohibit the denial of goods or services to an individual because the individual refuses to provide a social security number and to exempt from this prohibition those circumstances in which current law provides for collection of social security numbers.

The committee reported out the bill with a divided report, including a majority Ought Not to Pass report and a minority Ought to Pass as Amended report. The minority report proposed to clarify that current state or federal law allowing collection of social security numbers would not be affected by the bill, and proposed to exempt financial institutions from the bill. The bill was later recommitted to the committee, which voted to carry the bill over beyond adjournment of the First Regular Session.