

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

*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).

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

LD 783

An Act To Make the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program a Local Option

ONTP

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

LD 783 proposed to repeal the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program that provides state reimbursement of property taxes paid on business personal property.

This bill proposed to allow a municipality to adopt a local option business equipment tax reimbursement program in which the municipality would reimburse the business for property taxes paid on business equipment located in that municipality. The municipality could reimburse any portion of the taxes paid, up to 100%. The municipality could restrict the program to certain types of business equipment, specific areas of the municipality or certain types of business.

LD 784

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Allow the Legislature To Establish a Different Property Tax Rate for Secondary Residential Property for Purposes of Education Funding and To Protect State Funding of Education

ONTP

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

LD 784 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to permit the Legislature to establish a different tax rate for secondary residential property for the purpose of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, to establish the Education Funding Stabilization Fund dedicated to providing a stable source of state revenue to support kindergarten to grade 12 education and to dedicate additional sales tax revenue enacted as a result of a referendum to support kindergarten to grade 12 education unless otherwise appropriated by a 2/3 vote of each House of the Legislature. See related bill, LD 1141.

LD 801

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require a Vote of 2/3 of Each House of the Legislature To Enact or Increase a Tax

ONTP

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

LD 801 proposed a constitutional resolution that would require approval of 2/3 of each House of the Legislature to enact or increase taxes or license fees or repeal existing tax exemptions except when inadequate funds had been appropriated for debt payment.