

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
Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

May 2004

Members:

*Sen. Mary R. Cathcart, Chair
Sen. Margaret R. Rotundo
Sen. Karl W. Turner*

*Rep. Joseph C. Brannigan, Chair
Rep. Richard H. Mailhot
Rep. Scott W. Cowger
Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley
Rep. Sean Faircloth
Rep. Hannah Pingree
Rep. Richard W. Rosen
Rep. S. Peter Mills
Rep. H. Sawin Millett, Jr.
Rep. Julie Ann O'Brien*

Staff:

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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
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

LD 993

**An Act To Promote Economic Growth by Retaining Engineers in
Maine**

PUBLIC 710

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CATHCART	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-553
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LD 993 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to establish the Maine Engineers Recruitment and Retention Program to provide financial assistance and incentives to any graduate of a college of engineering within the University of Maine System to become an employee in an engineering position in the State. The program proposed to provide loan repayment to up to 10 eligible engineers working in Maine businesses. The employers who would apply for the loan repayment funds would have to match all funds received by their employees. The Finance Authority of Maine would administer the program with assistance in determining recipients provided by an advisory committee.

Committee Amendment “B” (S-553) proposed to provide a mechanism for repayment of student loans for persons who receive an engineering degree from the University of Maine System and who are employed full-time in an engineering position in this State.

The amendment proposed to expand the eligibility for those loan repayments to allow up to 40% of the loan repayment awards to go to persons who received a high school diploma, or its equivalent, in this State and who held a bachelor's degree from a college of engineering in a state other than this State but who returned to work in this State full-time in an engineering position.

The amendment also proposed to clarify that loan repayments would not begin until July 1, 2007 and that the matching funds paid by the employer would need to be paid to the Finance Authority of Maine for payment by the authority to the financial institution holding the employee's student loan.

Enacted Law Summary:

Public Law 2003, chapter 710 establishes the Maine Engineers Recruitment and Retention Program to provide financial assistance and incentives to any graduate of a college of engineering within the University of Maine System who is employed in an engineering position in the State. The program provides loan repayment to up to 10 eligible engineers working in Maine businesses. The employers who apply for the loan repayment funds must match all funds received by their employees. The program is administered by the Finance Authority of Maine with assistance in determining recipients from an advisory committee.