

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:

James Adolf, Legislative Analyst

Patrick Norton, Deputy Director

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-1670

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

LD 994 **Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Inventory Maine Business Excellence** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENNETT R		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 994 proposed to direct the Department of Economic and Community Development to inventory and study the State's enterprises, industries and business clusters to determine what makes them exceptional.

LD 995 **An Act To Exempt a Person Who Performs Work on Certain Vessels from the Laws Governing Professional Engineers** **PUBLIC 34**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LEMONT BROWN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 995 proposed to exempt a person who performs work only on vessels under 200 feet long from the laws governing professional engineers.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 34 exempts a person who performs work only on vessels under 200 feet long from the laws governing professional engineers.

LD 1004 **An Act To Clarify the Status of Regulated Water Utility Plumbing Permits** **PUBLIC 304**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAVIS P		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-128
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LD 1004 proposed to direct the Plumbers' Examining Board to review and revise its rules to clarify and codify long-standing interpretation by water utilities and municipalities that excludes from permit requirements all installations of water meters, related valves and backflow prevention devices by a water utility or its contractor. The bill also proposed to specify that a municipality may not create a permit requirement for such installations.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-128) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to exempt the installation of stand-alone water meters, water meters in combination with nontestable backflow prevention devices and related valves by water utility personnel or water utility contractors from municipal plumbing inspection and permitting requirements. The amendment also proposed to require that a statement be included in any notice provided to a customer regarding entry to install such water meters or related valves that installation of a backflow preventor may necessitate installation by the customer of additional devices, such as an expansion tank, due to thermal expansion.

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 304 exempts the installation of stand-alone water meters, water meters in combination with nontestable backflow prevention devices and related valves by water utility personnel or water utility contractors from municipal plumbing inspection and permitting requirements. It also requires that a statement be included in any notice provided to a customer regarding entry to install such water meters or related valves that installation of a backflow preventor may necessitate installation by the customer of additional devices, such as an expansion tank, due to thermal expansion.

LD 1006 **An Act To Require Confirmation of Appointments to the Board of Accountancy** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BARSTOW		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1006 proposed to require that gubernatorial appointments to the Board of Accountancy be subject to review by the appropriate legislative committee and approval by the Senate.

LD 1025 **An Act To Ensure Uniform Code Compliance and Efficient Oversight of Construction in the State** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HALL		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1025 proposes to establish the Office of Building Codes within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to ensure the uniform code compliance and efficient oversight of construction of new residential and commercial buildings in the State. The bill proposes to make that office responsible for providing testing and licensing standards for private building inspectors and establishing a fee schedule for building inspector services. This bill also proposes to require owners and developers of residential and commercial buildings to certify to the Office of Building Codes that a newly constructed building meets all applicable building and energy codes. It also proposes to require the department to submit a plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development prior to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature to merge into the Office of Building Codes functions within existing agencies that are responsible for plumbing, electrical, fire and energy code inspections.

This bill was worked in conjunction with LD 401 and LD 688.