

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:

Lisa M. Baldwin, Legislative Analyst

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 State and Local Government

LD 1047

An Act To Ensure Communication about Public Complaints against State Employees

PUBLIC 230

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAVERRIERE-BOUC	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-279
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LD 1047 proposed to establish a procedure whereby a member of the public will be kept informed about a complaint made against a state employee. Under the proposed bill, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources would be the liaison between the public and the agency in which the state employee works.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-279) proposed to replace the bill. Whereas the proposed bill would establish a liaison for public complaints for all state employees, the amendment proposed to ensure that each state agency establishes a policy that makes certain that complaints by the public against state employees are addressed by that agency. The amendment proposed to prohibit the release of confidential information that may not otherwise be released to the public.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 230 requires each state agency to establish a policy to ensure that complaints by the public against state employees are addressed by that agency. It prohibits the release of confidential information that may not otherwise be released to the public.

LD 1063

An Act Concerning Municipal Firearms Discharge Ordinances

PUBLIC 332

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUNLAP BRYANT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-321
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LD 1063 proposed to require a municipality to consult with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife throughout the process of consideration of the adoption or amendment of a firearm discharge ordinance. The bill proposed to require that the area in which the discharge of firearms is prohibited be described in the ordinance using clearly defined physical boundaries. The bill also proposed to require that a municipality that adopts a firearm discharge ordinance prepare a wildlife management plan to prevent overpopulation of game animals in the area in which the discharge of firearms is prohibited by the firearm discharge ordinance.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-321) proposed to clarify the role of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in a municipality's adoption of a firearm discharge ordinance. The amendment also proposed to remove the requirement that a municipality prepare a wildlife management plan.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 332 requires a municipality to consult with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife during the process of consideration of the adoption or amendment of a firearm discharge ordinance. It also requires that the area in which the discharge of firearms is prohibited must be described in the ordinance using clearly defined physical boundaries as points of reference.