

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

*July 2003*

**Members:**

*Sen. Bruce S. Bryant, Chair  
Sen. Richard Kneeland  
Sen. Edward M. Youngblood*

*Rep. Linda Rogers McKee, Chair  
Rep. Jacqueline A. Lundeen  
Rep. Raymond G. Pineau  
Rep. John F. Piotti  
Rep. Nancy E. Smith  
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Rep. Kenneth C. Fletcher  
Rep. Eugene L. Churchill  
Rep. John Eder*

**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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 1143**

**An Act Concerning Endangered and Invasive Plant Species**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1143 proposed putting the official threatened and endangered plant list in statute and having the Legislature, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Conservation, designate a species as a state endangered or state threatened species. The bill also proposed requiring the commissioner to establish and maintain a register of commercially available exotic invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants. It proposed using funds from the collection of fees for lake and river protection stickers to educate the public regarding the dangers of exotic invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants.

**LD 1177**

**An Act To Preserve Public Access and Job Opportunities in the North Woods**

**DIED IN CONCURRENCE**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER BRYANT	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1177 proposed the “Maine Woods Act”. It proposed establishing the Maine Woods Board as a public instrumentality of the State with independent bonding authority. As proposed, the board would have functioned to purchase and maintain tracts of land managed as commercial forestland. It proposed acquisition criteria based on the land’s suitability for practicing sustainable forestry and providing public recreational opportunities.

**LD 1194**

**An Act To Improve Services of Animal Shelters**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1194 proposed establishing a process for animal shelters to accept and dispose of pets whose owners were incarcerated or hospitalized. It proposed to reduce from 8 to 6 the number of days a shelter is required to hold a dog prior to euthanasia. This bill also proposed to make it a Class E crime to possess an animal in violation of a court order prohibiting a person from possessing an animal as part of the penalty imposed for a cruelty to animals conviction. See the bill summary for LD 1545 for a summary of provisions enacted this session relating to animal welfare.