

# 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:**

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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

*Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

**LD 1304**                      **An Act To Provide a Municipal Process for an Initiative To Impose a Property Tax Cap**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1304 proposed to provide a process for a municipal initiative by voters of a municipality to impose a limit on property taxes in that municipality. The proposed bill would not have applied to a municipality that has a provision for an initiative by voters in that municipality in the laws of the municipality.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-352)**, which was not adopted, proposed to add a mandate preamble.

**LD 1327**                      **Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Determine Why Young People Are Leaving Maine**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1327 proposed to establish the Commission to Determine Why Young People Are Leaving Maine.

**LD 1328**                      **An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding County Government**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1328 proposed to define the term "county official" for the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, Part 1. The bill proposed to repeal certain provisions of law relating to the county budget process and the provision of law that gives county commissioners the power to borrow in anticipation of taxes. The bill also proposed to correct cross-references to these repealed provisions of law. Finally, the bill proposed to permit a county to recover for expenditures for the removal of certain discharges from the person responsible for those discharges.

**LD 1332**                      **An Act To Recognize the Maine Rural Development Council**                      **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1332 proposes to establish the Maine Rural Development Council in statute and designate it as the entity authorized to participate in the National Rural Development Partnership.