

# 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  
Judiciary*

*May 2004*

**Members:**

*Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton, Chair*

*Sen. Mary R. Cathcart*

*Sen. Chandler E. Woodcock*

*Rep. William S. Norbert, Chair*

*Rep. Thomas D. Bull*

*Rep. Deborah L. Simpson*

*Rep. Philip R. Bennett, Jr.*

*Rep. Stan Gerzofsky*

*Rep. Janet T. Mills*

*Rep. Roger L. Sherman*

*Rep. Roderick W. Carr*

*Rep. Brian M. Duprey*

*Rep. Joan Bryant-Deschenes*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

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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](http://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 Judiciary*

**LD 1295**                      **An Act To Enact the Uniform Mediation Act**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1295 proposed to enact the Uniform Mediation Act, effective January 1, 2004.

**LD 1473**                      **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Public Easements**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1473 proposed to allow a person who is directly benefited by a public easement to collect funds to maintain that easement and proposed that a municipality may only retain a public easement in a discontinued road by stating in the discontinuance order that a public easement is retained.

**LD 1525**                      **An Act To Clarify the Freedom of Access Laws as They Pertain to the Penobscot Nation**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1525 proposed to provide that the Freedom of Access laws concerning public proceedings and public records do not apply to the Penobscot Nation.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-626)** was the minority report and proposed to amend the bill to provide that the freedom of access laws concerning public records do not apply to the Passamaquoddy Tribe. (Not adopted)

**LD 1579**                      **An Act To Promote the Financial Security of Maine's Families and Children**                      **PUBLIC 672**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUDLEY DAGGETT	OTP-AM    A ONTP      B OTP-AM    C	H-774 H-871    MILLS P