

# 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  
Rep. Roderick W. Carr  
Rep. Ken Honey  
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 1500

**An Act To Protect the Small Forest Landowners**

**PUBLIC 346**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT JODREY	OTP-AM	S-162

LD 1500 proposed making confidential addresses and other contact information collected by the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry specifically for distributing forest management information to small forest landowners.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-162)** proposed specifying that addresses and other contact information collected for the purpose of contacting forest owners are not a public record. This would allow the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry to share the information but would not require the bureau to provide it.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 346 specifies that addresses and other contact information collected for the purpose of contacting forest owners are not a public record. The Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry may share the information but is not required to provide it.

**LD 1518**

**An Act To Improve Harvest Standards for Lands Purchased and Harvested within an 8-year Period** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1518 proposes harvesting standards for land harvested within 8 years of purchase or purchase of the timber rights. It proposes requiring the landowner to have a harvest plan prepared prior to harvest and also requiring that a minimum basal area of trees of certain size and quality remain after harvest, unless one of the conditions specified in the bill exists.

LD 1531

**An Act To Amend Provisions of the Submerged Lands Law**

**PUBLIC 254**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUDLEY YOUNGBLOOD	OTP-AM	H-275

LD 1531 proposed to increase the administrative fee for submerged lands easement applications and double the administrative fee for after-the-fact applications. The bill proposed to allow a portion of the Shore and Harbor Management Fund to be used for management of state-owned coastal islands and clarify the provisions by which a watercraft may be declared abandoned in coastal waters of the State. It also proposed explicit immunity from liability for actions taken by the State regarding removal and disposition of watercraft