

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Judiciary*

*July 2003*

**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. Stan Gerzofsky*

*Rep. Philip R. Bennett, Jr.*

*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 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 Judiciary

**LD 1517**                      **An Act To Make Necessary Technical Changes Relating to the**                      **ONTP**  
**Maine Business Corporation Act and the Maine Professional**  
**Service Corporation Act**

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

LD 1517 proposed to correct cross-references and make conforming changes necessitated by repeal of Title 13-A and enactment of the new Title 13-C, the "Maine Business Corporation Act" and by repeal of Title 13, chapter 22 and enactment of Title 13, chapter 22-A, the "Maine Professional Service Corporation Act." The new laws were enacted by Public Law 2001, chapter 640. See LD 1539, which incorporates most of LD 1517.

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

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

LD 1525 proposes to provide that the Freedom of Access laws concerning public proceedings and public records do not apply to the Penobscot Nation. To the extent the holding in Great Northern Paper, Inc. v. Penobscot Nation, 2001 ME 68, is inconsistent with this Act, this bill proposed to overrule it.

This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 1538**                      **An Act To Clarify the Appointment of Coguardians and**                      **PUBLIC 323**  
**Coconservators under the Probate Code**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NORBERT PENDLETON		OTP		

LD 1538 proposed to clarify that the Probate Court has the authority to appoint coguardians or coconservators under Part 3 and Part 4 of Article 5 of the Probate Code by explicitly stating that this authority exists. This would provide flexibility for the courts and families of incapacitated adults.