

# 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  
State and Local Government*

*May 2004*

**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  
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 State and Local Government*

LD 1779

**An Act Concerning the Boundary Line of the Town of Unity**

**P & S 37**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| PIOTTI<br>WESTON  | OTP                     |                           |

LD 1779 proposed to reestablish the boundary line for the Town of Unity based on a recent survey.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 37 reestablishes the boundary line for the Town of Unity based on a recent survey.

**LD 1780**

**Resolve, To Promote Transparency in Budgeting**

**RESOLVE 133**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>  | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| COLWELL<br>ROTUNDO | OTP-AM MAJ<br>ONTP MIN  | H-807                     |

LD 1780 proposed to requires municipalities to submit copies of their annual budgets to the State Planning Office, which would compile the information and make it available on a publicly accessible site on the Internet. Under the proposed bill, a municipality that failed to submit a copy of its budget as required would be ineligible to receive funds under state-municipal revenue sharing.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-807)** proposed to replace the bill with a resolve and direct the office of the Chief Information Officer within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Executive Department, State Planning Office and the Department of Audit to create a publicly accessible site on the Internet through a pilot project that would include voluntary submission by municipalities and counties of their budgets. It proposed to require those entities to invite a representative of the Maine Municipal Association to take part in the development of the pilot project. It also proposed to require the lead agency to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by January 14, 2005 with recommendations on creating a permanent publicly accessible site on the Internet for this purpose.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Resolve 2003, chapter 133 directs the office of the Chief Information Officer within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Executive Department, State Planning Office and the Department of Audit to create a publicly accessible site on the Internet through a pilot project that includes voluntary submission by municipalities and counties of their budgets. It requires those entities to invite a representative of the Maine Municipal Association to take part in the development of the pilot project. This resolve also requires the lead agency to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by January 14, 2005 with recommendations on creating a permanent publicly accessible site on the Internet for this purpose.