

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

August 2005

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Sen. Richard A. Nass*

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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 organized by committees 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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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).

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:

- CARRIED OVER Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
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
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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 the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 30

An Act To Apply a System of Spending Limitations to State, County and Municipal Governments and School Administrative Units

ONTP

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

LD 30 proposed to establish spending limitation systems governing state, county and local governments and school administrative units. The bill was modeled on the spending limitation system provided in an initiative proposed by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, with some adjustments relating to the use of certain governance systems at the local, school and county levels. The bill proposed to establish a growth allowance, based on the average real growth of total personal income, to govern the year-to-year growth of the State's General Fund appropriations, county assessments, school district assessments, the property tax commitments levied for municipal school systems and the property tax commitments levied for municipal services. For local government, the base growth allowance would be adjusted by the appropriate property growth factor, which is a measure of new taxable property introduced into a municipality or multimunicipal region. Except for limited emergency situations, the Legislature could exceed its spending limit only by a 2/3 vote of both Houses. Except for emergency situations, the spending limit could be exceeded by county, school and local governments only by placing the budget before the voters at referendum, unless alternative budget adoption procedures are established by charter amendment or the adoption of a local ordinance by referendum approval. The budgets of school administrative units would be exempted from the limitations to the extent those budgets, on a year-to-year basis, do not exceed a baseline relationship between the total school budget and the total essential programs and services allocation for that school administrative unit.

LD 35

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$75,000,000 for the Land for Maine's Future Fund

ONTP

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

LD 35 proposed a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$75,000,000 to be used for the Land for Maine's Future Fund.