

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
State and Local Government*

August 2005

Members:

*Sen. Elizabeth M. Schneider, Chair
Sen. Margaret Rotundo
Sen. Mary Black Andrews*

*Rep. Christopher R. Barstow, Chair
Rep. Sonya G. Sampson
Rep. Richard D. Blanchard
Rep. Charles William Harlow
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Rep. Bradley S. Moulton
Rep. Roberta M. Muse*

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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 State and Local Government

LD 23

An Act to Establish Community Giving Week

PUBLIC 20

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FISCHER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-24
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LD 23 proposed to establish Charity Appreciation Week each year during the week that contains September 11th.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-24) proposed to change the title of the bill to "An Act to Establish Community Giving Week" and the name of the commemorative week to "Community Giving Week." The week of observance would change from the week containing September 11th to the 3rd full week in November.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 20 establishes the 3rd full week in November as Community Giving Week.

LD 44

An Act To Reform County Government

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BARSTOW SAVAGE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 44 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 that proposed to reform the laws regarding county government in the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-494) replaces the concept draft and proposed to give the county commissioners the authority to establish a fee in their county when a similar fee does not currently exist in statute. The amendment proposed to allow county commissioners to increase any county fee by up to 25% without the approval of the Legislature provided that the fee is raised no more frequently than every 5 years. Fees for recording and surcharges paid to the registers of deeds and registers of probate may be raised only if 11 or more counties vote to raise those fees to a uniform amount. This Act would be repealed January 1, 2008.

LD 63

An Act To Use the Buying Power of the State To Purchase Heating Oil for Low-income and Elderly Residents

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JACKSON MARTIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 63 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 that proposed to use the buying power of the State to purchase heating oil at the best possible price for low-income and elderly residents of this State.