

# 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  
Taxation*

*August 2005*

**Members:**

*Sen. Joseph C. Perry, Chair  
Sen. Ethan Strimling  
Sen. Jonathan T. E. Courtney*

*Rep. Richard G. Woodbury  
Rep. Herbert E. Clark  
Rep. Deborah J. Hutton  
Rep. Raymond G. Pineau  
Rep. Thomas R. Watson  
Rep. Harold A. Clough  
Rep. H. Stedman Seavey, Jr.  
Rep. Earle L. McCormick  
Rep. Leonard Earl Bierman  
Rep. Bruce Q. Hanley*

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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 Taxation*

**LD 169**

**An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Resale Certificates**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MOODY	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-78 S-122 COURTNEY

LD 169 proposed to repeal changes made in 2004 with regard to sales tax resale certificates that limited issuance of resale certificates to retailers with annual gross sales of \$10,000 or more and required the State Tax Assessor to annually review the gross sales status of each retailer prior to issuing the certificate for the next succeeding calendar year.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-78)** proposed to change the threshold for issuance of resale certificates from \$10,000 to \$3,000 in annual gross sales and extended the duration of resale certificates from one year to 3 years.

**Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-122)** proposed to make subsequent issuances of annual resale certificates effective for the next 5 calendar years.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table by S.P. 640 to the next special or regular session of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature.

**LD 177**

**An Act To Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDGECOMB SNOWE-MELLO	ONTP	

LD 177 proposed to increase the homestead property tax exemption to \$20,000 per homestead, regardless of value.

Public Law 2005, chapter 2, Part F increased the homestead exemption to \$13,000.

**LD 179**

**An Act To Exempt Alternative Power Systems from Property Taxes**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARLEY COWGER	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 179 proposed to exempt alternative power systems, including solar, wind and hydroelectric and biomass generators, from property tax.