

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and  
First Special Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Select Committee  
on  
Property Tax Reform*

*August 2005*

**Members:**

*Sen. Dennis S. Damon, Chair  
Sen. Joseph C. Perry  
Sen. Peter Mills  
Sen. Richard W. Rosen*

*Rep. Richard G. Woodbury, Chair  
Rep. Arthur L. Lerman  
Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley.  
Rep. Edward R Dugay.  
Rep. Jacqueline R. Norton  
Rep Nancy E. Smith.  
Rep. Harold A. Clough  
Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman  
Rep. Leonard Earl Bierman  
Rep. Earle L. McCormick  
Rep. Patrick S. A. Flood*

**Staff:**

*Julie S. Jones, Senior Analyst, OFPR  
Jon Clark, Senior Analyst, OPLA  
Phil McCarthy, Legislative Analyst, OPLA*



Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY & LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Room 215 Cross State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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 Select Committee on Property Tax Reform*

**LD 296**

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow the Legislature to Authorize or Require a Growth Limitation on the Taxable Value of Small Business Land** **DIED BETWEEN HOUSES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 296 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize or require municipalities to limit the rate of increase in the taxable value of small business land. Change of ownership or use of qualifying land would result in a minimum penalty.

**LD 297** **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Allow the Legislature to Authorize Municipalities To Adopt a Property Tax Assistance Program That Reflects a Claimant’s Ability to Pay** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 297 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize municipalities to adopt a property tax assistance program that reflects the resident's ability to pay.

This bill was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and received a unanimous “Ought Not To Pass” recommendation from that Committee.

**LD 298** **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Authorize the Legislature To Allow Municipalities To Exempt from Property Tax a Portion of the Value of Homesteads** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 298 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to authorize municipalities to exempt from property tax a portion of the value of homesteads.

This bill was committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and received a unanimous “Ought Not To Pass” recommendation from that Committee.