

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*

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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 Select Committee on Property Tax Reform

LD 299

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine to Permit the Legislature To Allow the Current Use
Valuation of Waterfront Land Used for or That Supports
Commercial Fishing Activities**

**FINALLY
PASSED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 299 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to provide for the assessment of waterfront land that is used for or that supports commercial fishing activities based on the current use of that property similar to treatment now available for farms, open space and forestland.

This bill was reported out by the Joint Select Committee on Property Tax Reform.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-12) proposed to correct the grammatical construction of the provision proposed in the constitutional resolution.

Enacted law summary

Constitutional Resolution, chapter 1, if approved by voters, amends the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to provide for the assessment of waterfront land that is used for or that supports commercial fishing activities based on the current use of that property similar to treatment now available for farms, open space and forestland.

LD 300

**An Act to Provide a Schedule of School Funding That Provides
55% State Coverage of the Cost of Essential Programs and
Services over a Period of 2 Years**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP (Maj)	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 300 proposed to accomplish the following, subject to approval of the voters at a statewide referendum in November 2005.

1. Require the State to pay 55% of the cost of funding essential education programs and services beginning in state fiscal year 2006-07.
2. Pay for increased state education funding by extending the general sales tax to amusements, extending the 7% sales tax to include rentals of boat moorings and docks and increasing the general sales tax to 5 1/2% beginning May 1, 2006.