

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
Business, Research and Economic Development*

August 2005

Members:

Sen. Lynn Bromley, Chair

Sen. Barry J. Hobbins

Sen. Dana L. Dow

Rep. Nancy E. Smith, Chair

Rep. Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien

Rep. Stephen R. Beaudette

Rep. Charles Earl Crosby, III

Rep. David W. Farrington

Rep. Christopher Rector

Rep. Susan M. Austin

Rep. Robert A. Berube

Rep. Lawrence E. Jacobsen

Rep. John C. Robinson

Staff:

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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 Business, Research and Economic Development

LD 341

An Act To Change the Definition of "Academic Medical Center"

PUBLIC 168

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PERRY J DUNN	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-135
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LD 341 proposed to change the definition of academic medical center to allow more hospitals to qualify for funding consideration as academic medical centers.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-135) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to provide that applicants created after July 1, 2001 could be eligible for funding from the Maine Biomedical Research Fund if an affiliate of the applicant is able to satisfy the eligibility requirements for funding. The amendment also proposed to define "affiliate" for the purposes of the Maine Biomedical Research Program.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 168 amends the Maine Biomedical Research Program's eligibility requirements to provide that applicants created after July 1, 2001 may be eligible for funding from the Maine Biomedical Research Fund if an affiliate of the applicant is able to satisfy the eligibility requirements for funding. The law defines "affiliate" for the purposes of the Maine Biomedical Research Program.

LD 366

An Act To Protect Consumers by Requiring Retail Businesses To Post Complaint Contacts

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SULLIVAN O'BRIEN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 366 proposed to require every retail business in the State to place a sign at the point of sale with the name of the owner or parent company of the business and a telephone number in case of consumer complaints. The bill proposed to require that the contact be someone of authority other than the manager on duty.

LD 369

An Act To Require the Disclosure of the State's Implied Warranty Laws

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COWGER DUDLEY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 369 proposed to require sellers of service contracts for consumer goods to provide information to potential buyers on the State's implied warranty law.