

# 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  
Judiciary*

*August 2005*

**Members:**

*Sen. Barry J. Hobbins, Chair*

*Sen. Lynn Bromley*

*Sen. David R. Hastings III*

*Rep. Deborah L. Pelletier-Simpson,  
Chair*

*Rep. Sean Faircloth*

*Rep. Stan Gerzofsky*

*Rep. Marilyn E. Canavan*

*Rep. Mark E. Bryant*

*Rep. Michael Edward Dunn*

*Rep. Roger L. Sherman*

*Rep. Roderick W. Carr*

*Rep. Joan Bryant-Deschenes*

*Rep. Joan M. Nass*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

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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 Judiciary

**LD 539**                      **An Act Authorizing Municipalities To Establish Walking Trails**                      **DIED BETWEEN HOUSES**

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

LD 539 proposed to authorize municipalities to establish walking trails and provide a private landowner limited liability for injury occurring on the municipal walking trail on that landowner's property.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-338)**, the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to establish a simplified optional framework for the public, nonprofit organizations and municipal government to establish trails. It did not propose to affect the liability of municipalities or private landowners already established under current law. (Not adopted)

**LD 549**                      **An Act To Expedite the Forcible Entry and Detainer Process in Nonpayment Cases**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MILLS J	ONTP	

LD 549 proposed to require a tenant with a written lease who receives a notice to quit for nonpayment of rent and has no defense for nonpayment to place the amount of rent owed in escrow with the District Court in order to receive a hearing on the notice. It proposed that if a tenant who receives a notice to quit for nonpayment does not place the amount of rent owned in escrow within three days after the expiration of the notice to quit, the court would be required to issue a writ of possession.

**LD 570**                      **An Act To Require the Fair Application of the Mechanic's Lien Law**                      **PUBLIC 287**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER SMITH N	OTP-AM	S-230

LD 570 proposed to protect nonresidential owners from mechanics liens filed by a supplier of goods and services when the supplier does not have a contract with the owner.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-230)** proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to rewrite the provisions concerning the requirements for avoiding the dissolution of a mechanics lien to include providing notice of the lien filing to the owner or owners if the lien claimant does not have a contract with the owner or owners.

### *Enacted law summary*