

# 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  
State and Local Government*

*August 2005*

**Members:**

*Sen. Elizabeth M. Schneider, Chair  
Sen. Margaret Rotundo  
Sen. Mary Black Andrews*

*Rep. Christopher R. Barstow, Chair  
Rep. Sonya G. Sampson  
Rep. Richard D. Blanchard  
Rep. Charles William Harlow  
Rep. James M. Schatz  
Rep. Robert H. Crosthwaite  
Rep. George R. Bishop, Jr.  
Rep. Howard E. McFadden  
Rep. Bradley S. Moulton  
Rep. Roberta M. Muse*

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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 State and Local Government*

**LD 631**                      **An Act To Establish a Maine Law Sunset Review Committee**                      **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CROSTHWAITE DAVIS P		

LD 631 proposes to create a process for a review of the Maine Revised Statutes to eliminate obsolete and outdated statutes. The process is based on the assignment in each Legislature of a joint standing or joint select committee whose duties are to review the Maine Revised Statutes and report at the beginning of the second regular session of that Legislature a summary of the committee's work and any recommended legislation. The committee meets during legislative sessions and may meet between sessions as authorized by the presiding officers. The Legislative Council would provide staffing assistance. Other state agencies may provide assistance.

This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to the next special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

**LD 671**                      **An Act To Provide a Method of Self-governance to Unorganized Areas**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 671 proposed to establish a new chapter in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A that provides a method for unorganized areas to develop a system of self-governance. It delineates the requirements that must be met for a town to be created in the unorganized areas and outlines the powers, duties and responsibilities of the new town's government. It also requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services to develop a fair system of reimbursement for tree growth to towns established under the new chapter.

**LD 695**                      **An Act Regarding Constitutional Officers**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P	OTP      MAJ	
BOWLES	ONTP    MIN	

LD 695 proposed to prohibit constitutional officers from using their titles or allowing their titles to be used for political purposes not necessary for the administration of their offices.