

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
Taxation*

August 2005

Members:

*Sen. Joseph C. Perry, Chair
Sen. Ethan Strimling
Sen. Jonathan T. E. Courtney*

*Rep. Richard G. Woodbury
Rep. Herbert E. Clark
Rep. Deborah J. Hutton
Rep. Raymond G. Pineau
Rep. Thomas R. Watson
Rep. Harold A. Clough
Rep. H. Stedman Seavey, Jr.
Rep. Earle L. McCormick
Rep. Leonard Earl Bierman
Rep. Bruce Q. Hanley*

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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 Taxation

LD 1066 **An Act To Repeal the Homestead Property Tax Exemption and Redirect Property Tax Relief Funds to the Maine Residents Property Tax Program** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TURNER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1066 proposed to repeal the homestead property tax exemption and expand the Maine Residents Property Tax Program, commonly known as the "circuit breaker" program by reducing the property tax to income thresholds from 4% and 8% to 3% and 6%, respectively, and by increasing the maximum benefit payment from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

See also LD 1, Public Law 2005, chapter 2, Parts E and F summarized under the Joint Select Committee on Property Tax Reform.

LD 1068 **An Act To Strengthen Maine's Small Business Economy** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BROMLEY SMITH N		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1068 proposed to deappropriate 10% of amounts identified as necessary for the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program and use those fund for various small business development infrastructure programs administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Labor.

The bill also proposed to authorize the InforME program to generate revenue through fees or surcharges on premium services and to accept funds from all sources, including General Fund appropriations.

See also LD 1691, Public Law 2005, chapter 457, Part BBB which reduced BETR by 10% for the 2006 application year only.

See also LD 1400 and LD 1557.