MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the

LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library

http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied (searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



Office of the Revisor of Statutes

SPONSOR: Rep. Annis of Dover-Foxcroft

LR: 2818

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Setoff of Debts Against Tax Refunds to Include Convicted Felons

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to allow the State to attach

the state income tax refund of a convicted felon.

SPONSOR: Rep. Ash, Jr. of Belfast

LR: 3210

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Lobster and Crab Fishing

Licenses

SUMMARY: This bill allows anyone who has previously held a Class I,

Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license to

obtain the same license.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 468

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2796 - PINKHAM

SPONSOR: Sen. Bennett of Oxford

LR: 3268

TITLE: An Act to Equalize the Fee Structure for Class I and Class II Liquor Licenses

SUMMARY: This bill reduces the fee for a Class II license under the retail liquor sales law to \$220 per year.

SPONSOR: Sen. Bennett of Oxford

LR: 3269

TITLE: An Act to Expedite Employment in the Maine Construction Industry

SUMMARY: This bill would allow the use of on-site, rapid response drug tests by construction companies operating in this State for potential new hires.

SPONSOR: Sen. Bennett of Oxford

LR: 3284

TITLE: An Act to Require Tax-exempt Corporations to File Copies of Federal Internal Revenue Service Form 990 with the Secretary of State

SUMMARY: Most charitable corporations qualifying as tax-exempt under federal law must file IRS form 990 as a means of ensuring public accountability. This bill requires such an organization to file a copy of that form with the Secretary of State as well.

SPONSOR: Rep. Laverriere-Boucher of Biddeford

LR: 2724

TITLE: An Act to Allow Certain Licensed Mental Health Professionals

to Directly Bill Medicaid

SUMMARY: This bill would allow licensed clinical social workers and

licensed clinical professional counselors to directly bill Medicaid for services rendered to persons with Medicaid

coverage.

of Biddeford SPONSOR: Rep. Laverriere-Boucher

LR: 2725

TITLE: An Act to Create the Foster Parent State Board of Review

SUMMARY: This bill would establish the Foster Parent State Board of

Review to review for acceptance or rejection any rule made by the Department of Human Services regarding foster

parents. The board would consist of 16 foster parents, one

from each county.

SPONSOR: Rep. Laverriere-Boucher of Biddeford

LR: 2911

TITLE: An Act to Promote Affordable Housing in Downtown Areas

SUMMARY: This bill exempts from municipal minimum lot size standards

multiple-unit affordable housing developments that are located in municipal downtown areas or other areas of the municipality served by a public sewer system that has the

capacity to support the development.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3037 - SULLIVAN

SPONSOR: Sen. Bromley of Cumberland

LR: 2925

TITLE: An Act to Establish a Licensed Case Worker Credential

SUMMARY: This bill would create an entry-level licensed case worker credential to all new Department of Human Service workers whether or not they have a bachelor's or master's degree in social work. These employees would become fully licensed social workers "LSW" within a time frame given to allow the workers to get the needed degrees.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3049 - MILLS CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3247 - COLWELL

SPONSOR: Sen. Bromley of Cumberland

LR: 3299

TITLE: An Act to Address Inequities in Consumer Credit Fees

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to assess proportionately the servicing fee that is charged a mortgage company when it underwrites a mortgage.

SPONSOR: Rep. Brooks of Winterport

LR: 2729

TITLE: An Act Requiring the State to Develop a Comprehensive Health Care Plan That Includes Mental Health as Well as Physical Health

SUMMARY: This bill would develop dynamic health plans and create a coordinated health planning framework within State Government by establishing the Health Care Planning Advisory Commission and giving the State Planning Office jurisdiction over the health planning function activities.

SPONSOR: Rep. Brooks of Winterport

LR: 3219

TITLE: Resolve, to Ensure Consumer Representation in Medicaid Prescription Drug Programs

SUMMARY: This resolve would direct the Department of Human Services to amend 2 rules as follows: First, it would add 2 consumer members, both of whom would have the same rights and privileges as the physician and pharmacist members, to the Drug Utilization Review Committee; 2nd, the membership provisions for the drug formulary committee would be amended so that the committee's 2 consumer members, neither of whom currently has voting privileges, would be granted voting privileges equal to those of the committee's other members.

SPONSOR: Rep. Bunker Jr. of Kossuth Township

LR: 3180

TITLE: An Act to Codify the Interpretation of the Maine Department of Labor as it Pertains to the Motor Carrier Industry

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to clarify and codify the current practice that motor carriers use in compensating those employees whose qualifications and hours of service are established by the United States Secretary of Transportation. This bill exempts from overtime rates those employees in the motor transport industry whose qualifications and hours of service are regulated by the United States Secretary of Transportation or by the State Police.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3245 - MATTHEWS CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3302 - BENNETT

SPONSOR: Rep. Bunker Jr. of Kossuth Township

LR: 3181

TITLE: An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Enforce Junkyard Laws in Absence of a Municipal or County Comprehensive Plan

SUMMARY: This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to be the lead agency in the enforcement of junkyard laws in the absence of a municipality's or county's comprehensive plan.

SPONSOR: Rep. Bunker Jr. of Kossuth Township

LR: 3185

TITLE: An Act to Allow the Use of Local Road
Assistance Funds for any Maintenance of a Municipality's
or County's Roads

SUMMARY: This bill allows a municipality or county to use state highway funds received as part of the local road assistance program for any maintenance of its roads, including winter maintenance.

SPONSOR: Rep. Carr of Lincoln

LR: 2800

TITLE: An Act to Require that the State Hold the Title to any Land to Which it Contributes Toward the Purchase Price

SUMMARY: This bill requires that the State hold the title to any land to which it contributes toward the purchase price.

SPONSOR: Rep. Chick of Lebanon

LR: 2803

TITLE: An Act to Allow Landowner Permits to be Issued for Turkey

Hunting

SUMMARY: This bill would allow, similar to the system now allowed

for hunting anterless deer, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to issue turkey hunting permits to landowners who keep their land open to the public for

hunting.

SPONSOR: Rep. Chick of Lebanon

LR: 2950

TITLE: An Act to Extend the Date By Which the Use of Tokens or

Tickets is Required for Games of Chance at Agricultural

Fairs

SUMMARY: This bill would extend by one year the date by which the

use of tokens or tickets is required for games of chance at

agricultural fairs.

SPONSOR: Rep. Clark of Millinocket

LR: 3216

TITLE: An Act Concerning Legal Counsel for Real Estate Closings

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits banks and mortgage companies from

requiring that specific lawyers be used for real estate

closings.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 629

SPONSOR: Rep. Clough of Scarborough

LR: 2871

TITLE: An Act to Require the Owner of a Submerged Snowmobile or Boat to Remove the Snowmobile or Boat

SUMMARY: This bill would require the owner of a boat or snowmobile submerged in the waters of the State to remove that boat or snowmobile.

SPONSOR: Rep. Cote of Lewiston

LR: 2706

TITLE: An Act to Name a Portion of the Turnpike the POW-MIA Memorial Highway

SUMMARY: This bill names a portion of the Maine Turnpike the POW-MIA Memorial Highway.

SPONSOR: Rep. Cowger of Hallowell

LR: 3147

TITLE: An Act to Fund the Operational Costs of a Household Hazardous Waste Collection System

SUMMARY: This bill appropriates sufficient funds for ongoing costs of a statewide household hazardous waste collection system.

SPONSOR: Rep. Daigle of Arundel

LR: 3039

TITLE: An Act to Provide for Legislative Review of Dissolved Oxygen Standards in Riverine Impoundments

SUMMARY: This bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection to review dissolved oxygen standards for riverine impoundments and provides for legislative review of those standards.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3040 - DAIGLE

SPONSOR: Sen. Douglass of Androscoggin

LR: 2738

TITLE: An Act to Provide for Reciprocity in Temporary Licensing of Nurses Licensed in Other States

SUMMARY: This bill provides for reciprocity in temporary licensing of nurses that are licensed in other states.

TED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2763 - BROOKS

SPONSOR: Rep. Dudley of Portland

LR: 3191

TITLE: An Act to Maintain the Family Caregiver Initiative for Elderly Citizens in Maine

SUMMARY: This bill would allocate \$250,000 to the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Elder and Adult Services to serve as the 25% state match for the family caregiver federal initiative.

SPONSOR: Rep. Dudley of Portland

LR: 3291

TITLE: An Act to Protect Police Horses

SUMMARY: This bill affords the same protection to police horses that

is now offered to police dogs.

SPONSOR: Rep. Dudley of Portland -

LR: 3293

TITLE: An Act to Support the State's Homeless Youth

SUMMARY: This bill continues funding for an innovative pilot program

for homeless youth conducted in Portland, Lewiston and

Bangor.

SPONSOR: Rep. Duncan of Presque Isle

LR: 2880

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility for General

Assistance

SUMMARY: This bill amends the definition of a "lump sum payment" in

the laws governing eligibility for general assistance to be

consistent with other portions of those laws.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2941 - WHEELER E

SPONSOR: Rep. Dunlap of Old Town

LR: 2865

TITLE: An Act to Protect the Rights of Maine Citizens Under

Collective Bargaining Agreements

SUMMARY: Current law allows random drug testing without cause to be

a part of a labor agreement. This bill would eliminate

that provision.

SPONSOR: Sen. Ferguson, Jr. of Oxford

LR: 2786

TITLE: An Act to Require Tractor-trailer Drivers to Clean Off

the Roof of Their Vehicles

SUMMARY: This bill would require a tractor-trailer driver to keep

the roof of the vehicle that the tractor-trailer driver is

driving clean of snow and ice.

SPONSOR: Rep. Fuller of Manchester

LR: 2977

TITLE: An Act Regarding Fire Safety Laws for Residential Care

Facilities

SUMMARY: This bill provides that, prior to being licensed, a

residential care facility must be certified as meeting Life Safety Code 101 of the National Fire Protection Association as adopted by the State Fire Marshal's Office. This bill repeals certain state laws that conflict with the Life Safety Code. This bill will direct the use of the current

Life Safety Code whenever applicable, eliminating

conflicting laws and rules without compromising resident

safety.

SPONSOR: Rep. Fuller of Manchester

LR: 3159

TITLE: An Act to Establish the Asthma Prevention and Control Program in the Department of Human Services, Bureau of

Health

SUMMARY: This bill establishes an asthma prevention and control program, which qualifies for federal grant money, within the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health.

SPONSOR: Rep. Glynn of South Portland

LR: 2966

TITLE: An Act to Protect School Districts From Ongoing Substantial

Losses in School Funding

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to distribute any increases in

school funding equally among the school districts.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 1548

SPONSOR: Rep. Goodwin of Pembroke

LR: 3045

TITLE: An Act to Ensure a Fair Rate of Return for Public Utilities

SUMMARY: This bill links the recovery of stranded costs, as defined

in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3207, to

the existence of a utility's rate of return that is

determined by the Public Utilities Commission.

SPONSOR: Rep. Goodwin of Pembroke

LR: 3118

TITLE: An Act to Establish a Moratorium on Removal of Dams and to Establish a Study to Develop a Comprehensive Plan for Rivers

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a moratorium on the removal of dams from rivers and establishes a legislative study to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with issues concerning the rivers of the State, including dam breaching, fish ladders

and power generation.

SPONSOR: Rep. Goodwin of Pembroke

LR: 3122

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Restricting the Hiring of Spouses by School Boards

SUMMARY: This bill amends the law to prohibit the employment of the spouse of a member of a school board in that board member's own town but allows employment of the spouse in other towns within the jurisdiction of the board.

SPONSOR: Rep. Goodwin of Pembroke

LR: 3123

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Washington County Emergency Medical Services Authority

SUMMARY: This bill would make minor changes to the laws governing the Washington County Emergency Medical Services Authority to enhance the authority's ability to serve communities.

SPONSOR: Rep. Green of Monmouth

LR: 2916

TITLE: An Act to Provide That Salary Paid to Teachers for Duties Relating to Technology is Subject to the Maine State Retirement System

SUMMARY: This bill provides that the salary paid to teachers for duties relating to technology is subject to the Maine State Retirement System.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hall of Bristol

LR: 2884

TITLE: Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Participate in a Scientific Assessment of the Activities in the Great Salt Bay

SUMMARY: This bill requires the Department of Marine Resources to participate in a scientific assessment of the activities in the Great Salt Bay. The bill also requires the department to put a ban on fishing and harvesting activities for the next 4 years pending the outcome of the assessment.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hall of Bristol

LR: 2982

TITLE: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$12,000,000 for Conservation and Access to Public Lands

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to provide funds for renovation and expansion of facilities for state parks and historic sites, for boat launch ramps and for trails.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hall of Bristol

LR: 3154

TITLE: An Act Regarding Utility Easements

SUMMARY: This bill establishes that utilities retain the same rights when a railroad is abandoned as when a public way is abandoned. It clarifies that electric utilities can take action to cross railway lines unless that action interferes with railroad operation. It also clarifies the determination of the value of land or an easement.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hall of Bristol

LR: 3166

TITLE: An Act to Provide Consumers with a Renewable Energy Choice

SUMMARY: This bill provides that, whenever the Public Utilities

Commission establishes a standard-offer price that is below
the competitive retail market rate, the standard offer
provided must also offer customers a 100% renewable energy
option.

SPONSOR: Rep. Heidrich of Oxford

LR: 2775

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

SUMMARY: This bill repeals changes to the membership of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The bill also repeals authorization for that commission to employ an administrative director and a general counsel, and repeals authorization for monthly meetings.

SPONSOR: Rep. Hutton of Bowdoinham

LR: 2815

TITLE: An Act to Safeguard Volunteer Firefighters' Regular

Employment

SUMMARY: This bill provides that a fire department volunteer may not

be fired for being late to or departing from the

volunteer's regular employment due to responding to a fire

call.

SPONSOR: Rep. Jacobs of Turner

LR: 2855

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Law Pertaining to the Sales Tax

Exemption for Incorporated Nonprofit Memorial Foundations

SUMMARY: This bill will repeal the future effective date of the

sales tax exemption for sales to incorporated nonprofit memorial foundations, contained in the Maine Revised

Statutes, Title 36, section 1760, subsection 42, and make

the provision effective immediately.

SPONSOR: Rep. Jacobs of Turner

LR: 3125

TITLE: An Act to Authorize the Transportation of Water from Its

Source to a House or Apartment Well as Needed

SUMMARY: This bill would allow a person to transport water from its

source to a house or apartment well as needed.

SPONSOR: Rep. Jones of Greenville

LR: 2718

TITLE: Resolve, to Restore Maine State Parks

SUMMARY: This bill directs the Department of Conservation to conduct

an overview of state parks and compile an inventory of

necessary repairs, maintenance and other

beautification measures.

SPONSOR: Rep. Kane of Saco

LR: 3161

TITLE: Resolve, to Establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to

Address Financing of Long-term Care Costs

SUMMARY: This resolve would establish a blue ribbon commission to

investigate and analyze the future costs of providing long-term health care to elderly and disabled adults and recommend an integrated system of financing the projected

costs of these services.

SPONSOR: Rep. Kane of Saco ~

LR: 3179

TITLE: Resolve, to Address the Crisis Caused by a Shortage in

Direct Care Staff in the Long-term Care System

SUMMARY: This resolve consists of directives to the Department of

Human Services, the State Board of Nursing and the State Board of Education to undertake initiatives regarding the training and certification of unlicensed direct care staff in the long-term care system. The resolve also requires a

public awareness campaign and legislation to expand

training opportunities.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2817 - KANE

SPONSOR: Sen. Kilkelly of Lincoln

LR: 2819

TITLE: An Act to Increase the Penalty for Appropriating Another

Person's Social Security Number

SUMMARY: This bill would increase the penalty for appropriating

another person's social security number.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 1098

SPONSOR: Sen. Kilkelly of Lincoln

LR: 3084

TITLE: An Act to Promote and Simplify Transportation Assistance

to Medically Necessary Appointments

SUMMARY: This bill makes transportation to medically necessary medical appointments more easily available to people covered by Medicaid and Cub Care's transportation program, including families with children, elderly persons 65 years of age or over and persons with disabilities. It promotes administrative efficiency by simplifying the application process for transportation services, ensures families are promptly reimbursed for out-of-pocket transportation services, provides educational materials to those eligible for transportation assistance about available service and increases the reimbursement rates to families for providing transportation to more accurately reflect their actual cost.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 1515
CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3090 - MICHAUD MH

SPONSOR: Sen. Kilkelly of Lincoln

LR: 3151

TITLE: An Act to Mitigate the Effect of Large Mandatory

Environmental Penalties

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to mitigate the effect of large

mandatory environmental penalties by limiting the penalties that can be imposed, establishing a new process for the determination of penalties and imposing mandatory penalties

only when there is an immediate threat to the public

health, safety and welfare.

SPONSOR: Sen. LaFountain III of York

LR: 3285

TITLE: An Act to Permit Consumer-owned Utilities to

Competitively Bid on Wholesale Electric Energy Contracts

SUMMARY: This bill increases customer choice by allowing

consumer-owned utilities to competitively bid on and accept

wholesale electric energy contracts.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3215 - DAIGLE

SPONSOR: Rep. LaVerdiere of Wilton

LR: 3188

TITLE: An Act to Correct the Retroactive Effect of Changes Made

to the Subdivision Laws

SUMMARY: This bill would make only the home-rule part of Public Law

2001, chapter 359 retroactive to June 1, 2001. The

remainder of the chapter would take effect on September 21,

2001.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2974 - SNOWE-MELLO

SPONSOR: Sen. Longley of Waldo

LR: 3313

TITLE: An Act Authorizing a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$5,000,000 to support the Maine Technical College System

SUMMARY: This bill authorizes a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$5,000,000 to support the Maine Technical College System. Proceeds from the bond issue will be targeted to support programs in areas of greatest employment and growth need.

SPONSOR: Sen. Longley of Waldo

LR: 3315

TITLE: An Act Regarding the Use of Prescription Drugs by Children

SUMMARY: This bill prohibits school employees from recommending or requiring that parents put their children on medication.

SPONSOR: Rep. Loring of Penobscot Nation

LR: 2905

TITLE: An Act to Specifically Exempt Tribal Proceedings and Documents from the State Freedom of Access Laws

SUMMARY: This bill would specify that the state freedom of access laws do not apply to any tribal proceeding or documents held by the tribe.

SPONSOR: Rep. Marley of Portland

LR: 2892

TITLE: An Act to Ensure Greater Protection to Children Who Are in Automobile Accidents

SUMMARY: This bill raises the age and weight requirements for children using booster seats.

SPONSOR: Rep. Marley of Portland

LR: 2893

TITLE: An Act to Allow Maine to Participate in the Federal Pilot Program for Drivers Delivering Home Heating Oil

SUMMARY: This bill instructs the Commissioner of Public Safety to allow Maine to participate in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, or "FMCSA," pilot program that allows for a restart of drivers' hours in order to allow for flexibility of the hours-of-service regulations. This pilot program, which lasts for 3 years, is managed and monitored by the FMCSA and will provide data to the FMCSA for the purpose of evaluating current hours-of-service regulations.

SPONSOR: Sen. Martin of Aroostook

LR: 2896

TITLE: An Act to Support a Continuum of Quality Long-term Care Services

SUMMARY: This bill would provide relief to nursing facilities, including that the payment system must reflect costs and be rebased every 3 years. The bill clarifies what constitutes "fixed costs". The bill modifies conditional licensing of social workers and fair hearing procedures on Medicaid payment issues.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REO: LR 2821 - KANE

SPONSOR: Rep. Mayo III of Bath

LR: 3050

TITLE: An Act to Eliminate Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance Travel Restrictions for Obtaining Health Care

SUMMARY: This bill changes current Bureau of Insurance rules that restrict travel distances for obtaining health care by allowing patients to seek appropriate care in centers of excellence outside of the travel area.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3051 - MAYO

SPONSOR: Rep. Mayo III of Bath

LR: 3051

TITLE: An Act to Allow Health Maintenance Organization Insurance Products to Identify Centers of Excellence

SUMMARY: This bill changes current Bureau of Insurance rules to allow consumers belonging to HMOs to choose the best treatment locale based on quality and outcomes data, utilizing appropriate differentials within the benefit structure.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3050 - MAYO

SPONSOR: Rep. Mayo III of Bath

LR: 3052

TITLE: An Act to Implement a Health Insurance Pilot Project Under the Supervision of the Bureau of Insurance

SUMMARY: This bill implements a project under supervision of the Bureau of Insurance to develop an integrated program to provide consumers with data concerning cost and quality, allowing them to make informed decisions about health care treatment options while demanding providers based upon quality of outcomes.

SPONSOR: Sen. McAlevey of York

LR: 3214

TITLE: An Act to Authorize the Formation of Regional County

Corrections Authorities

SUMMARY: This bill authorizes groups of 2 or more counties to

finance, construct and operate regional correctional

facilities.

SPONSOR: Rep. McGlocklin of Embden

LR: 3044

TITLE: An Act to Benefit Maine's Economy

SUMMARY: This bill provides a new section in the divestiture provisions that will use funds from the asset sale gain account to provide relief from high energy prices to nonresidential electricity consumers. The bill requires emergency action of the Legislature because Maine's industries and Maine's economy are threatened by continued

volatility in regional electric energy markets.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 741

SPONSOR: Rep. McKee of Wayne

LR: 3263

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Allagash Wilderness

Waterway

SUMMARY: This bill requires the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, or "AWW," to make an annual report to the Legislature; removes the AWW from the list of state parks and establishes it as a separate entity that reports to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands; changes the title

of the director of the AWW; and requires that the director

of the AWW receive wilderness management training.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 1761
CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3282 - MCKEE

SPONSOR: Rep. McKee of Wayne

LR: 3265

TITLE: An Act to Strengthen the Maine Commercial Fertilizer Law

SUMMARY: This bill would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to register a brand or grade of commercial fertilizer; allow the department to require additional information in the registration application; expand the labeling requirements; and prohibit the distribution of commercial fertilizer that contains substances that render it injurious to beneficial plant life, animals, humans, aquatic life, soil or water.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3149 - COWGER

SPONSOR: Rep. McKee of Wayne

LR: 3271

TITLE: An Act to Improve Boating Safety in Waters of the State

SUMMARY: In order to address the growing number of serious boating accidents in the State, this bill would require a sound-making device for alerting other boaters, allow municipalities to submit recommendations regarding mandatory reduced speed limits in certain areas surrounding youth camps, establish zero tolerance for minors operating watercraft under the influence of alcohol and establish a training program for volunteer boating safety instructors.

SPONSOR: Rep. McKee of Wayne

LR: 3283

TITLE: An Act to Reduce Pollution to Androscoggin Lake by Repairing and Altering the Existing State-owned

Barrier on the Dead River

SUMMARY: This bill authorizes emergency funding to pay for the cost of immediate improvements needed to the barrier owned by the State located on the Dead River in Leeds and known as the "Dead River Dam". The bill transfers ownership of the barrier from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to the Department of Environmental Protection. Finally, the bill authorizes funding to implement long-term changes to the barrier. Without these immediate and long-term actions by the State, the water quality of Androscoggin Lake will continue to decline and remediation may become very difficult and costly.

SPONSOR: Rep. McNeil of Rockland

LR: 2904

TITLE: An Act to Establish a Lobster Research and Monitoring Fund

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to establish a lobster research and monitoring fund. The bill will establish surcharges to be assessed on lobster and crab fishing licenses to provide revenue to the fund. The bill also requires the Lobster Advisory Council to seek advice from the lobster management policy councils with the formulation of the research and monitoring programs.

SPONSOR: Rep. McLaughlin of Cape Elizabeth

LR: 2975

TITLE: An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief in Cumberland County

SUMMARY: Current law increases the amount of unencumbered surplus funds county commissioners may use annually for purposes other than reducing the county property tax levy. This bill restores the 10% limit in Cumberland County.

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3199

TITLE: An Act to Support Victims of the Terrorist Incident and

Military Veterans' Organizations

SUMMARY: This bill would create a new specialty license plate with the American flag. Proceeds from the sale of the plates would benefit disaster relief funds or veterans'

organizations, as determined by the purchaser.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2823 - TRACY

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3201

TITLE: An Act to Make Maine a Veteran Friendly State

SUMMARY: This bill would eliminate state income taxes on veterans' pensions.

CLOSELY RELATED CARRYOVERS:

LD(S) 810

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2735 - BENNETT

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2771 - EDMONDS

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3202

TITLE: An Act to Protect Children from Sexual Predators

SUMMARY: This bill would increase the age of consent to 16 years of age. A person who engages in sexual contact with a person less than 16 years of age and who is more than 5 years older than that person would be guilty of gross sexual

assault.

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3203

TITLE: An Act to Protect Children from Sexual Predators on the Internet

SUMMARY: This bill would require a statewide task force to make children more aware of the dangers on the Internet and to implement a plan for "sting" operations to catch sexual predators using the Internet.

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3204

TITLE: An Act to Promote Energy Efficiency in State Offices and Lower Energy Costs

SUMMARY: This bill would require all new computer monitors purchased by the State to be low-energy-usage, flat-screen monitors.

SPONSOR: Rep. Mendros of Lewiston

LR: 3257

TITLE: Resolve, to Allow William and Anne Tower to Have a Hearing Before a Judge and Jury of Their Peers Concerning Alleged Misconduct by the Department of Human Services

SUMMARY: This bill removes barriers by the State and levels the playing field for William and Anne Tower, who may have been harmed by the Department of Human Services, by allowing William and Anne Tower an opportunity to a fair hearing before an impartial judge and jury of their peers. The jury, after reviewing all facts, evidence and testimony, will decide liability and damages.

SPONSOR: Sen. Michaud of Penobscot

LR: 3305

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Trade Adjustment

Assistance and Trade Reduction Adjustment

SUMMARY: This bill would ensure that an applicant for trade

adjustment assistance or trade reduction assistance who is initially denied benefits but who ultimately is granted

benefits may receive unemployment compensation.

SPONSOR: Sen. Mills of Somerset

LR: 2917

TITLE: An Act to Strengthen Maine's Litter Law

SUMMARY: This bill adds cigarettes to the list of items which are

considered litter.

SPONSOR: Rep. Morrison of Baileyville

LR: 2908

TITLE: An Act to Extend the Period During Which the Passamaquoddy

Tribe May Acquire Land in the City of Calais

SUMMARY: This bill extends until the year 2020 the option for the

Passamaquoddy Tribe to acquire land in the City of Calais.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3160 - GOODWIN

SPONSOR: Rep. Morrison of Baileyville

LR: 2909

TITLE: An Act to Establish a Process for Certification of Food

Safety Managers

SUMMARY: This bill proposes to establish a certified food safety

manager program within the Department of Human Services to ensure appropriate food safety measures in licensed eating

establishments.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3121 - SHOREY

SPONSOR: Rep. Nass of Actor

LR: 2937

TITLE: An Act to Require Continuing Education for Professional

Engineers

SUMMARY: This bill mandates continuing education for professional

engineers.

SPONSOR: Rep. Norbert of Portland

LR: 3035

TITLE: Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Fully

Reimburse Center-based Developmental Therapy Programs under

Contract with Child Development Services

SUMMARY: This resolve directs the Department of Education to fully

reimburse a nonprofit agency that operates developmental therapy programs under contract with the Child Development Services System for children from birth to 5 years of age.

SPONSOR: Rep. Norton of Bangor

LR: 3129

TITLE: An Act Concerning Student Threats Against School Personnel

SUMMARY: This bill would establish school board policies to address student threats of physical harm to education personnel.

SPONSOR: Rep. Norton of Bangor

LR: 3304

TITLE: An Act to Clarify the Status of Retirees Who Return to Service Under the Maine State Retirement System

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies that a retired teacher who returns to work under Public Law 2001, chapter 442 is eligible upon ceasing work to return to coverage under the group health insurance plan in effect for active teachers in the school unit from which the teacher originally retired, including state payment of a percentage of the premium cost under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20, section 13451.

SPONSOR: Sen. Nutting of Androscoggin

LR: 2727

TITLE: Resolve, to Direct the Animal Welfare Board to Undertake a Public Information Campaign to Inform the Public of the Insurance Ramifications of Ownership of Certain Breeds of Dogs

SUMMARY: This bill would require the Animal Welfare Board to undertake a public information campaign to inform the public of the insurance consequences of ownership of certain breeds of dogs.

SPONSOR: Sen. Nutting of Androscoggin *

LR: 2886

TITLE: An Act Allowing the Hunting of Female Turkeys

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a lottery for the taking of 1500

female turkeys.

SPONSOR: Rep. O'Neil of Saco

LR: 2956

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Maine Consumer Credit Code

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies that if a deferral of a first period payment is for in excess of 90 days then no interest or costs may accrue in connection with the entirety of that deferral. If a deferral is for 90 days or less, then interest may accrue in connection with such a deferral. This bill clarifies the intent of Public Law 2001, chapter 82, which was enacted in the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

SPONSOR: Rep. O'Neil of Saco

LR: 3056

TITLE: An Act to Modify Investment-related Insurance Company
Provisions of the Maine Insurance Code

SUMMARY: This bill would permit a property and casualty carrier, upon prior approval of the Superintendent of Insurance, to invest more than 10% of its assets in qualifying indexed mutual funds managed by one investment firm. This would result in fund management cost savings to the insurer since it would not have to invest in more than one fund as it must presently do.

SPONSOR: Rep. Paradis, Jr. of Frenchville

LR: 3251

TITLE: An Act to Provide \$25,000 to the Maine Tourism Association to Assist with Financial Costs Incurred by a Required Study of Northern and Downeast Maine

SUMMARY: This bill allocates \$25,000 to the Maine Tourism
Association to assist in ameliorating the financial impact
that a required study of tourism in Aroostook County and
Washington County will cause the association through guide
and map rewrites.

SPONSOR: Rep. Paradis, Jr. of Frenchville

LR: 3253

TITLE: An Act to Enable Aroostook County to Fund on a Per Capita Basis the E-9-1-1 System

SUMMARY: This bill allows Aroostook County to assess its municipalities for the impending E-9-1-1 system on a per capita basis rather than by the required system of valuation.

SPONSOR: Rep. Paradis, Jr. of Frenchville

LR: 3254

TITLE: An Act to Clarify Reciprocity for Prisoner Transfers Under the Transfer of Offenders Treaty Between the United States and Canada

SUMMARY: This bill clarifies what constitutes true reciprocity for prisoner transfers as intended under the treaty between the United States and Canada.

SPONSOR: Rep. Patrick of Rumford

LR: 2704

TITLE: An Act to Include Services Provided by Licensed Marriage and

Family Therapists in Medicaid Coverage

SUMMARY: This bill would provide Medicaid coverage for services

provided by licensed marriage and family therapists.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2802 - LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER

SPONSOR: Rep. Peavey of Woolwich

LR: 3157

TITLE: An Act to Enhance the Juvenile Drug Courts by Increasing

Access to Treatment Services

SUMMARY: This bill enhances the ability of drug courts to work with

and treat juveniles with substance abuse issues.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2791 - SAVAGE W

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2903 - SAVAGE W

SPONSOR: Rep. Quint of Portland

LR: 3031

TITLE: An Act to Improve the Public Safety of Maine Citizens

SUMMARY: This bill appropriates \$21,315,000 to the Department of

Corrections, county jails and the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services for the purpose of providing mental health workers, psychologists and nurses to help law enforcement and correctional officers deal with persons

with mental illnesses.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3115 - WESTON

SPONSOR: Rep. Quint of Portland

LR: 3184

TITLE: An Act to Enhance Consumer-directed Personal Assistance Services for Maine Citizens with Disabilities

SUMMARY: This bill designates the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services as the lead agency for providing consumer-directed personal assistance services to Maine citizens with disabilities and reassigns all functions of the state-funded and Medicaid-funded consumer-directed personal assistance services programs for people with disabilities to the Bureau of Rehabilitation in order to ensure that these services are delivered in the most comprehensive manner possible. This bill further directs the Bureau of Rehabilitation to guarantee the full participation of people with disabilities in the development of rules that govern the delivery of these consolidated consumer-directed personal assistance services.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3226 - BUNKER CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3272 - QUINT

SPONSOR: Rep. Quint of Portland

LR: 3273

TITLE: An Act to Create an Easement at the Maine Youth Center

SUMMARY: This bill would establish a restrictive covenant on the real property used by the Maine Youth Center to prohibit its sale or any use for nonyouth related services. Any change to the convenant would require a 2/3 majority vote by the Legislature.

SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson of Brunswick

LR: 3218

TITLE: An Act Regarding Trial Offers

SUMMARY: The bill would allow merchants to provide consumers, who have already agreed over the telephone to be charged for a good or service after a trial period, with a written notice detailing the specific steps for cancellation of the purchase using a toll-free number.

SPONSOR: Sen. Sawyer, Jr. of Penobscot

LR: 3153

TITLE: An Act to Facilitate the Closure of Privately Owned Solid Waste Landfills

SUMMARY: This bill allows an owner or operator of a licensed solid waste disposal facility to use the financial assurance mechanisms allowed under federal law for closure and post-closure care and for corrective action for known releases.

SPONSOR: Rep. Schneider of Durham

LR: 3225

TITLE: An Act to Provide Tax Conformity

SUMMARY: This bill will provide conformity in the Maine tax code with the changes recently enacted by the Federal Government.

SPONSOR: Rep. Sherman of Hodgdon

LR: 2898

TITLE: An Act to Require the Land for Maine's Future Board to

Notify State Representatives of Projects

SUMMARY: This bill would require the Land for Maine's Future Board

to notify a state representative if the board is

considering a project in that representative's district.

SPONSOR: Rep. Sherman of Hodgdon

LR: 2899

TITLE: An Act to Require the Membership of the Land for Maine's

Future Board to Include a State Representative

SUMMARY: This bill would expand the membership of the Land for

Maine's Future Board to include a state representative from the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation

and Forestry.

SPONSOR: Rep. Sherman of Hodgdon

LR: 3047

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to the Maine Municipal

Bond Bank

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to amend the laws pertaining to

the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to allow a quasi-municipal corporation to become an eligible borrower for electric,

water and sewer projects.

SPONSOR: Rep. Shields of Auburn

LR: 2825

TITLE: An Act Allowing Committees Having Oversight of Health and Human Services Issues to Obtain Confidential Information

SUMMARY: This bill permits members of committees having oversight of health and human services to obtain the same level of

confidential information that regular staff of the

Department of Human Services can obtain.

SPONSOR: Rep. Shields of Auburn

LR: 2945

TITLE: Resolve, Directing the Department of Human Services to Apply

for a Federal Waiver to Provide Medicaid Benefits to

Uninsured Residents with a Diagnosis of Cancer

SUMMARY: This resolve would direct the Department of Human Services

to apply for a waiver from the Federal Government to authorize the provision of Medicaid benefits to uninsured citizens of the State who receive a diagnosis of cancer.

SPONSOR: Sen. Shorey of Washington

LR: 3120

TITLE: Resolve, to Provide for the Location of a New Bridge

in Calais

SUMMARY: This resolve would require the Department of Transportation

to place the planned international bridge within the city

limits of the Town of Calais.

SPONSOR: Rep. Simpson of Auburn

LR: 2979

TITLE: An Act to Ensure the Fair Collection of Overpayments

SUMMARY: This bill prevents the Department of Human Services from collecting overpayments accrued in public benefit programs from people who were minors in the household at the time that their parent or other caretaker received the overpayment.

SPONSOR: Rep. Simpson of Auburn

LR: 3277

TITLE: An Act Providing Equity Under the Maine Clean Election Act

SUMMARY: Under this bill, any candidate who elects to participate under the Maine Clean Elections Act as a publicly financed candidate has the same qualifying period as any other candidate, regardless of whether or not the candidate is enrolled in a political party.

SPONSOR: Rep. Simpson of Auburn

LR: 3288

TITLE: An Act to Support Businesses Engaged in Both Off-premise and On-premise Retail Sales of Malt Liquor and Wine

SUMMARY: Under this bill, an off-premise licensee of malt liquor and wine could use a common kitchen if the licensee also operates a wine bar on the premises.

SPONSOR: Sen. Small of Sagadahoc

LR: 2858

TITLE: An Act to Ensure Accountability of State Expenditures to Private Scholarship Organizations

SUMMARY: This bill requires the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute or any other private organization that provides scholarships and receives state funding to have on its board of directors 3 members appointed by the Governor. The board would be required annually to report to the Legislature on the selection criteria used in determining the recipients of any scholarships granted from the organization as well as how all state appropriations are used by the organization. Any state appropriations to the organization must be used for scholarships and not for salaries and other administrative expenses.

SPONSOR: Sen. Small of Sagadahoc

LR: 3093

TITLE: An Act to Provide Loan Assistance for Maine's Retail Businesses

SUMMARY: This bill would allow Maine's retail businesses to qualify for no-interest loans through the Finance Authority of Maine if those businesses had to purchase new registers to comply with the new multi-tax system that went into effect on October 1, 2001.

SPONSOR: Sen. Small of Sagadahoc

LR: 3116

TITLE: An Act to Permit Underground Storage Tanks in Low-risk

Areas

SUMMARY: This bill permits underground storage facilities within 75

feet of a private well when public water is available to replace the well and the facility installs monitoring devices around the facility, or when the facility owner agrees to pay for replacement or remediation of the well in the event of contamination by a release from the facility.

SPONSOR: Rep. Smith of Van Buren

LR: 3103

TITLE: An Act to Provide for Labor Committee Review of the

Workers' Compensation Board

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to have the appointment of new

board members to the Workers' Compensation Board reviewed

by the Labor Committee.

SPONSOR: Rep. Snowe-Mello of Poland

LR: 2696

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Notification by State

Agencies to Landowners Prior to Entering Onto Their Land

SUMMARY: This bill requires state agencies to adopt written policies

regarding the conditions under which they would authorize entry onto a person's private property, and attempts to make consistent notification practices prior to such entry. This bill also establishes a study commission to examine curtilage and the entry onto private property by state

officials.

SPONSOR: Rep. Snowe-Mello of Poland

LR: 2804

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Cumberland County Budget Process

SUMMARY: Under current law, the Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee forwards an approved county budget to the county commissioners, who may alter that budget. This bill replaces that process and establishes a budget committee whose budget may be revised by the county commissioners only by a unanimous vote of the commissioners. Changes by the county commissioners may be rejected by a 2/3 vote of the budget committee.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2773 - BLISS CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2976 - CUMMINGS

SPONSOR: Rep. Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

LR: 2744

TITLE: Resolve, Establishing a Commission to Examine the Treatment of Native Americans in the Prison System

SUMMARY: This resolve establishes a commission to examine the treatment of Native Americans in the prison system.

SPONSOR: Rep. Soctomah of Passamaquoddy Tribe

LR: 3099

TITLE: An Act Concerning Passamaquoddy Land in Grand Lake Stream Plantation

SUMMARY: This bill establishes a process for including land in Grand Lake Stream Plantation in the Passamaquoddy Indian Reservation.

SPONSOR: Rep. Stanley of Medway

LR: 2970

TITLE: An Act to Create the Office of Canadian Ombudsman

SUMMARY: This bill would create the Office of Canadian Ombudsman to oversee issues affecting business conducted between Maine

and Canada.

SPONSOR: Rep. Stanley of Medway

LR: 3163

TITLE: An Act to Promote Equity in Camp Lot Leases

SUMMARY: This bill would imply an easement of access to a camp lot in the unorganized territory if the lease for the lot does not contain an easement of access. The bill would also require that the lessor pay the fair market value of any improvements made by the lessee unless the lease specifies otherwise.

SPONSOR: Rep. Sullivan of Biddeford

LR: 3037

TITLE: An Act to Exempt Affordable Housing from Moratoria, Growth Caps and Impact Fees

SUMMARY: This bill exempts affordable housing from moratoria, growth caps and impact fees.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2911 - LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER

SPONSOR: Rep. Sullivan of Biddeford

LR: 3300

TITLE: An Act to Reduce the Economic Impact of Posted Spring Roads

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit municipalities from

posting roads on a seasonal basis.

SPONSOR: Rep. Tarazewich of Waterboro

LR: 2943

TITLE: An Act to Prevent Theft and Ensure Safety at Gasoline

Filling Stations

SUMMARY: The purpose of this bill is to discourage theft of motor fuels by "drive-offs" by creating a crime for driving off

without paying for the fuel and attaching a 6-point demerit

against a person's driver's license.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 1221

SPONSOR: Rep. Tracy of Rome

LR: 2754

TITLE: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Compensation for Abutters

of Landfills

SUMMARY: This bill provides that the owner of a privately owned

landfill must compensate an abutter for the decrease in

value of the land caused by the landfill.

SPONSOR: Rep. Tracy of Rome

LR: 2823

TITLE: An Act to Create a Patriotic License Plate to Benefit

Relief Organizations

SUMMARY: This bill creates a license plate with a patriotic design,

the proceeds of the sale of which will be donated to relief organizations. This plate would be decorative only, would not display the registration number and would be displayed and the fourth of a making and an arrangement of a making and a sale of the fourth of a making and a sale of the fourth of a making and a sale of the fourth of a making and a sale of the fourth of a making and a sale of the fourth of the fourth

on the front of a vehicle only.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3199 - MENDROS

SPONSOR: Rep. Trahan of Waldoboro

LR: 2700

TITLE: An Act Regarding the Administration of Epinephrine by

Emergency Medical Personnel

SUMMARY: This bill provides authority for all emergency medical

personnel to administer epinephrine.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 283

SPONSOR: Rep. Trahan of Waldoboro

LR: 2720

TITLE: An Act to Amend the State Government Evaluation Act to

Create the Office of Legislative Audit

SUMMARY: This bill would amend the State Government Evaluation Act to create the Office of Legislative Audit. This office,

which will be modeled on successful programs in other states, will oversee the process of developing performance measures, evaluate the use of those performance measures

and conduct program reviews.

SPONSOR: Rep. Usher of Westbrook -

LR: 2768

TITLE: Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect the Elderly from Rising Property Tax Rates

SUMMARY: This bill would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to allow communities to enact property tax freezes for elderly residents who own property in the community.

JOINT RULE 217 RULING NEEDED: LD(S) 980 LD 657

SPONSOR: Rep. Weston of Montville

LR: 3032

TITLE: An Act to Designate Department of Education Chapter 180 Rules as Major Substantive Rules

SUMMARY: This bill requires rules establishing the Department of Education's comprehensive childfind system and early intervention system to be major substantive rules.

CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 2902 - CLOUGH CLOSELY RELATED LEGISLATOR REQ: LR 3048 - DAIGLE

SPONSOR: Sen. Youngblood of Penobscot

LR: 2835

TITLE: An Act to Facilitate the Prompt Transfer of State Funds Following a Declared Disaster

SUMMARY: This bill would amend the law to authorize the transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to provide the state share of matching assistance grants following declaration of a disaster.

SPONSOR: Sen. Youngblood of Penobscot

LR: 2836

TITLE: An Act to Authorize Certain Former Members of the Maine State Retirement System to Rejoin the Maine State Retirement System

SUMMARY: This bill would allow former members of the Maine State Retirement System who switched out of that program into TIAA-CREF in 1999 and 2001 following representations of incorrect information by TIAA-CREF to switch back to the Maine State Retirement System within the 6-month period following the effective date of this Act.

SPONSOR: Sen. Youngblood of Penobscot

LR: 3176

TITLE: An Act to simplify the Process by Which a Financial Institution Transfers Title to a Motor Vehicle to a Lessee

SUMMARY: This bill expands the ability of a financial institution to sell a motor vehicle in circumstances when the financial institution transfers title to a vehicle that it leases the lessee of a vehicle.