

## 118th Legislature: About the Consolidated Index

- 1) **What is the Consolidated Index?** *Over the years, the Legislative Record has had different patterns for indexing. At the time of the 118th Legislature, the House and Senate each produced a separate index, not in the same format. The Consolidated Index pulls together the different Legislative Record entries for each legislative document (LD or bill) or other House or Senate paper in a single index series.*
- 2) **How is it arranged?** *The Consolidated Index is arranged principally by LD number, then by session day, then by chamber. The LD sequence is broken down into blocks of 500 LDs. House and Senate papers that do not have LD numbers (generally joint resolutions or joint orders) are listed by their House or Senate paper number in separate indexes.*
- 3) **What are the links and page numbers?** *The links are to the session day containing that reference. The page number is the first page on which reference to that LD or other paper begins. Clicking on the link will open a PDF document for that session day. Then you need to scroll down to the specific page where the reference begins.*
- 4) **What are the “Remarks” and “Roll Call(s)” columns?** *A reference in the “Remarks” column indicates that one or more legislators made remarks about the bill or paper at that point. “Roll Call(s)” shows when there was one or more roll call votes on the bill or paper.*
- 5) **What is in the “Amendments” column?** *These are filing numbers for amendments connected to the bill or paper in question. Amendment numbers are repeated each time they are cited in connection with the bill or paper. It does not mean that the amendment was acted on at that particular time.*
- 6) **What if I don’t know the LD or paper number?** *A list of Documents by Title is included, containing the original and/or final names of all bills and other papers. Use the Ctrl+F function in your PDF reader or browser window to search for keywords or phrases that will lead you to the LD or paper number you need to use the rest of the index. By the way, clicking on the LD number in Documents by Title will open the legislative history of the original bill; clicking on the law chapter number will open the document as it appears in the Laws of Maine.*
- 7) **What if I need to search by topic?** *The subject or general indexes prepared by the House and Senate are linked below the Consolidated Index links. Searching these indexes will generally lead you to an LD or paper number or to a Legislative Record page number that you can use to link to the desired session day and page.*
- 8) **What if I have further questions or notice an error?** *Contact the Law and Legislative Reference Library via their [“Ask A Law Librarian”](#) web form.*