

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1984

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the Second Regular Session of the 111th Legislature. The summaries are arranged alphabetically, and indexed separately by committee.

1853 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LAW Trafton PL 83, C. 633
CONCERNING CERTAIN APPEALS
FROM PLANNING BOARD DECISIONS

SUMMARY: The bill allows boards of appeals in municipalities to hear appeals of the actions of planning boards. The existing language allowed only appeals of decisions of individual officials.

1854 AN ACT TO ALLOW PLANTATIONS McBreairty OIP-A
TO DETERMINE WHEN TO HOLD PL 83, C. 601
THEIR ANNUAL MEETINGS

SUMMARY: The bill removes the requirement that plantations hold their annual meeting in March. It thereby allows them to hold the meeting in June and consider the plantation budget in conjunction with the school budget.

The Committee Amendment (S-280) added an emergency clause so the provisions can take effect this year.

1880 AN ACT TO ENABLE COMMUNITIES Rotondi OIP-A
TO ESTABLISH TOWN FOREST PL 83, C. 634
RESERVE ACCOUNTS

SUMMARY: The original bill provided for the establishment of town forest reserve accounts by municipalities with town forests. Since municipalities already had this authority under home rule but plantations did not, the bill was amended by the Committee (H-469) to allow plantations to establish forest reserve accounts and to indicate that municipalities could establish such accounts under their home rule authority.

1950 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR Kelleher PL 83, C. 607
REAPPORTIONMENT OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

SUMMARY: The bill was passed without reference to a committee. It reapportions county commissioner districts, as constitutionally required.

A floor amendment in the Senate (S-282) added an emergency clause and a floor amendment in the House (H-456) corrected certain errors and omissions in the original bill.

1961 AN ACT CONCERNING TERMS OF Pray OIP-ND
OFFICE OF CERTAIN COUNTY ID 2222
COMMISSIONERS WHOSE DISTRICTS
ARE AFFECTED BY REAPPORTIONMENT

SUMMARY: The bill added language to existing law on terms of commissioners after reapportionment, by which the terms of office for commissioners elected on a county-wide basis shall be for 4 years.

Questions were raised on the constitutional implications if voters in some towns might vote more often than others for commissioner, and an Attorney General's opinion was sought on this issue. Another bill draft, not printed, provided both for staggered terms, and for delaying the implementation of reapportionment until 1986, so that all commissioners would serve a 4-year term.

The Attorney General's opinion concluded that delaying full implementation in order to preserve staggered terms would be constitutional both as to procedure and to the principle of population equality.

The Committee discussed the relative merits of a phase-in and the clarification of terms before the submission of filing papers; 2 members were opposed, because a Commissioner preferred a 6-year term.

1984 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A SELF- G. Carroll OIP-ND
LIQUIDATING BOND ISSUE FOR LD 2161
YORK COUNTY TO CONSTRUCT AN
ADDITION TO THE YORK COUNTY
JAIL

SUMMARY: This emergency bill authorized York County to spend up to \$364,000, raised through bonds, plus \$75,000 of the unexpended 1982 surplus, for an addition to the jail.

2002 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OR Baker MAJ-ONIP
DISPOSITION OF FORT GORGES IN MIN-OIP-A
CASCO BAY P&S 83, C. 70

SUMMARY: The intent of the original bill was to provide the State the first option of purchasing Fort Gorges if the City of Portland decides to sell it. The bill established a procedure for negotiating the price and set a one year time limit for the sale. The Minority Report (H-481) amended the bill by shortening the time period to 6 months.

This report was accepted, though a Senate Amendment (S-294) replaced the bill with the straightforward provision of giving the State the right of first refusal to purchase the Fort. In addition, it stipulated that the City of Portland had to notify the State of any purchase offer within 48 hours of the offer and that the State had the right to purchase the Fort at the offered price.