

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

total product development costs is placed on the state's investment in any one firm. In addition, priority of venture capital investments is given to businesses dependent upon defense customers/contracts for more than 50% of the gross income generated by the business within the State. These types of businesses qualify for the investments if the investments will generate new products for customers other than defense customers/contracts. Second in priority are individual businesses on which a municipality or region has substantial reliance with respect to employment and economic activity.

The venture capital investment fund would be replenished by a 5% royalty of annual sales of the new product.

The bill is being held over until the Second Regular Session in order to study means of financing the proposal. There were insufficient General Fund revenues to finance the venture capital fund.

LD: 435 AN ACT TO GRANT CERTAIN POLITICAL RIGHTS TO
ND: 1434 STATE EMPLOYEES

TUTTLE
BUSTIN
PRAY
BEAULIEU

OTP-ND SPO533 HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

Please refer to LD 1434, the new draft of LD 435.

LD: 436 RESOLVE, REGARDING A STUDY OF THE PERSONNEL
EMERGENCY LAW

KANY
COTE
BOUTILIER
GWADOSKY

OTP-AM HOUSE Emer. Finally Passed
SENATE Emer. Finally Passed
GOV EMER SIGNED

RESOLVE
CH # 17

S-35 CA H S

SUMMARY:

This resolve is intended to determine the extent to which the Department of Personnel with current resources is able to respond to the needs of state agencies. This resolve requires the Commissioner of Personnel to determine the length of delays to fill current and new positions in State Government following approval of the applicants and the new positions. This resolve also requests the Commissioner of Personnel to determine the extent to which the department is computerized and the cost savings that could be realized from computerizing the record-keeping, position inventory and application systems.

The Commissioner of Personnel will report his findings and recommendations for improvements to the Joint Standing Committee on State Government. The committee is authorized to evaluate the report and its findings and submit any necessary implementing legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature.

The Committee amended the bill (S-35) by adding an emergency preamble in order to enable the Department of Personnel to commence the study immediately.

LD: 441 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

LORD
MCBREAIRTY
DEXTER

ONTP HOUSE Indef. PP
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV
H-106 CA MIN REP H

SUMMARY:

LD 441 proposed to establish a Department of Forestry to replace the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation. The Department of Forestry would attain cabinet level status.

The purpose for the bill may be described as follows: the significance of forestry in the State of Maine warrants department status for this sector of the economy and a position which is at least equal with Marine Resources, Agriculture, and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Proponents argued that forestry and the forest industry need much more attention than they currently receive. In addition, some persons pointed out that valuable wood is being sold for firewood. Others pointed out that the small and medium sized private, non-corporation owned forest land needs better management. The Service Forestry program which provided advice and management plans for small woodlot owners was discontinued in the late 1970's.

Opponents to the bill argued that the bill did not give the new department comprehensive authority to undertake the tasks required of a forestry department. Opponents also argued that:

- 1) the former service forestry program was very costly and could only assist 1/2 of 1% of Maine's small forestland owners in any one year;
- 2) the reorganization of State Government sought to consolidate state government in structure rather than diffuse it to make State Government more