

# 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

Prepared by:

Ted Potter, Legislative Assistant  
Office of Legislative Assistants  
State House, Station 13      Augusta, Maine 04333  
(207) 289-1670



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STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS  
ROOM 101  
STATE HOUSE, STATION 13  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333  
TEL.: (207) 289-2486

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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.

The Personnel Department agreed to review the positions and take whatever action is necessary to provide incentives to these people. The bill was then withdrawn.

LD: 1280 AN ACT TO REALLOCATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE GWADOSKY  
EMERGENCY AUTHORITY FROM THE MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM MARTIN J  
OF THE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE TO THE PRAY  
MAINE SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM MURPHY T

OTP HOUSE Emerg. Enacted PUBLIC  
SENATE Emerg. Enacted CH # 198  
GOV EMER SIGNED

SUMMARY:

The Finance Authority of Maine administers both the Maine Small Business Loan Program and the Mortgage Insurance Program. By statute, the aggregate principal amount of insured loans under the Maine Small Business Loan Program could not exceed \$2,500,000 at any time and under the Mortgage Insurance Program it could not exceed \$60,000,000 at any time.

The success of the Maine Small Business Loan Program resulted in a portfolio rapidly approaching the \$2,500,000 maximum. As the maximum was approached, the authority would have to cut back on the number and size of loans it could insure, resulting in the possibility that eligible Maine small businesses would not be able to obtain the financing they need.

LD 1280, therefore, temporarily moved \$2,000,000 in loan insurance authority from the Mortgage Insurance Program to the Maine Small Business Loan Program, ensuring that small businesses would continue to be able to obtain insured commercial loans that they would not otherwise be able to obtain.

LD: 1296 AN ACT CONCERNING APPEALS TO THE GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION SPROUL

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 1296 proposed to allow the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to rule on non-parliamentary decisions made by the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate and challenged by members of the House and the Senate. Some persons did not believe that the Commission on Government Ethics and Election Practices should be broadened to include this new duty. The Speaker of the House testified that he often times

challenged franking and telephone charges of House members in cases where they seemed to violate the Post Office standard or legislator ethics.

LD: 1307 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF THE SMALL  
BUSINESS OMBUDSMAN

BOTT  
MURPHY T  
ZIRNKILTON  
MARTIN J

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 1307 proposed to create an Office of the Small Business Ombudsman to serve as an advocate of small business and provide services to small business. The bill was proposed not only to assist small business, the backbone of the Maine economy, but also to improve the state's business climate rating. In addition to the ombudsman, the bill established a small business Advisory Council.

The bill was withdrawn following the suggestion that the Joint Select Committee on Economic Development study the issue and make recommendations to the Legislature.

LD: 1322 AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENTAL OVERSIGHT

SPROUL  
RACINE  
SIMPSON  
MAYBURY

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 1322 proposed to establish a "hotline" by which individuals could report abuse of authority, mismanagement, negligence, fraud, and violations of laws and rules to the staff of the Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review. If the committee staff and the committee members determined that there was substantial likelihood that the information reported via the "hotline" was correct, the committee would notify the department or agency, in writing, of the problem. The department or agency would then be required to conduct an investigation and issue a written report. The report from the department to the Committee would include a description of the investigation, the evidence obtained, the violations of laws or rules, and any corrective measures that will be taken.

A copy of the agency report to the Audit and Program Review Committee would be provided to the original