

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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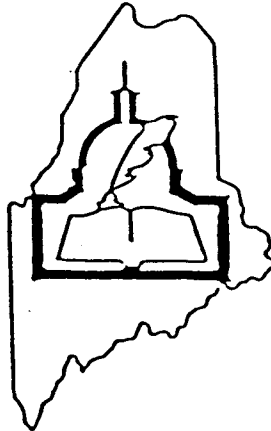


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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
LOCAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

BILL SUMMARY



MAY 1986

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
MAY 1986

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

All Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "CA" if it is a committee amendment. If the amendment was adopted in the House, the letter H appears after the sponsor. If it was adopted in the Senate, the letter S appears.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-AM	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Sponsor: PRAY, Law, Lander, Masterman  
Committee Report: New draft of LD 2031

H-667 HA  
H-677 HB H S

SUMMARY: LD 2031 gave authority to adopt or revise the county budget to a budget committee consisting of 9 members, three from each Commissioner district. Approvals must be obtained from the legislative delegation and the Legislature. These bodies may not revise.

A number of counties have made changes in this process in the last year. The proposal for Piscataquis was most similar to Aroostook in location of responsibility and differed from that county in continuing to include an approval role for the legislative delegation. In membership, it was unique in specifying a combination of municipal officers and residents while other counties have gone one direction or the other. Also, 2/3rds of the appointments are made by the county commissioners and 1/3 by the delegation. All counties, except Kennebec, have their members selected by the municipal officers.

The new draft, LD 2345, accomplished the following:

1. Eliminated the emergency status of the bill;
2. Changed the functions of the commissioners from preparing to preparing, adopting and revising;
3. Changed the functions of the budget committee from revising and adopting to reviewing and recommending;
4. Added the function of amending to the Legislature's responsibility of approving;
5. Made no change in the responsibility of the delegation which is interim approval but not revision;
6. Called for one of the 3 budget council members chosen from the general public to be a resident of the unorganized territories;
7. Provided for staggered terms for committee members;
8. Set the following schedule of deadlines:

Preparation by county  
 commissioners.....90 days prior to year end  
 Budget committee recommendations  
 to commissioners.....prior to November 15th  
 Public hearing.....prior to December 1st  
 Formal submission to  
 delegation.....prior to December 15th  
 Approval by delegation.....prior to January 1st

Submission to Legislature  
(in original bill).....prior to January 15th  
Legislative approval  
(in original bill).....prior to April 1st;

- 9. Eliminated the requirement of using registered mail by the county commissioners to distribute the budget. This brings the Piscataquis procedure in line with the procedure for non-budget committee counties, which was passed in the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature; and
- 10. Required that proposals for budget amendments during the year be submitted to the legislative delegation. If the Legislature was in session, it would continue to have final approval.

House Amendment A, B & C made certain changes which reflected concerns over constitutionality. It removed the delegation from the selection of budget committee members. It eliminated a deadline for Legislative approval of the budget and required that the Legislature approve any amendments made, during the year, regardless of whether the Legislature is in session.

LD 2369	RESOLVE, FOR LAYING OF THE COUNTY TAXES AND AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES OF WASHINGTON COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1986 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO RAISE UP TO \$700,000 FOR JAIL RENOVATIONS	RESOLVE 1985 c. 79 EMERGENCY
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Sponsor:  
Committee Report: OTP

SUMMARY: In addition to being the standard county budget bill, this LD authorized a bond issue to raise additional money to add to the 1984 jail renovation bond issue. When bids were requested in late 1985 for the renovation work the lowest bid was \$700,000 more than the authorized original bond issue. Because of the need to accomplish this work quickly and the desire to accept the present bids and take advantage of current low interest rates. This bill sought to have this bond issue authorized without going to a referendum.

LD 2403	RESOLVE, FOR THE LAYING OF THE COUNTY TAXES AND AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES OF PENOBSCOT COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1986	RESOLVE 1985 c. 81 EMERGENCY
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Sponsor:  
Committee Report: OTP