

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1987

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. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted 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 "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

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

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

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-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

LD
1790

AN ACT TO DELINEATE AREAS OF ECONOMIC DISTRESS
AND TO CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITY ZONES TO
ALLEVIATE DISTRESS

PL 1987
c. 500

Sponsor: BAILEY, Michaud, Dutremble, D., Collins
Committee Report: ND Maj Rpt of 1512
Amendments Adopted:
H-402 CROWLEY

SUMMARY: LD 1790 is the new draft of LD 1512 and the report of the majority of the Committee on Economic Development with respect to that bill. LD 1512, as initially written, was vague with respect to standards for the selection of opportunity zones. In addition, the bill did not provide any accountability for the implementation of the program nor was any program evaluation required.

The new draft establishes a procedure by which: the areas of economic distress are delineated through the State; the types of economic distress and the causes of this distress are determined; and solutions and remedial measures are developed and targeted to the specific types and cause of distress.

Following the careful and comprehensive analysis, the State Development Office will establish job opportunity zones. The State Development Office will use whatever existing resources are available, including appropriations in this new draft and any future bill, to address the problems and encourage growth and development in these zones. The State Development Office will report annually by February 1st to the Legislature describing the zones that have been created, the areas and zones which are economically distressed and the areas and zones which are the most economically distressed. In addition, this report will describe the measures that have been applied in these zones to bring about economic growth and development.

The report will also include any necessary implementing legislation to apply specific remedial measures, such as appropriations, tax credits and other similar measures.

The State Development Office will be assisted by the advice of an advisory committee composed of state agency department heads, representatives of business, locally elected officials, regional economic development organizations and a Senator and a Representative from the Legislature.

The Joint Standing Committee on Economic Development will evaluate the results of the job opportunity zone program during the First Regular Session of the 114th Legislature.

House Amendment "B" provides for the creation of 4 demonstration job opportunity zones. In addition, the amendment provides for the analysis of economic distress in areas throughout the State and the means by which the distress can be alleviated.

The State Development Office will be advised by the Commission on Job Opportunity Zones which will also report findings and recommendations concerning opportunity zones to the Governor and the Legislature. The commission is composed of 10 members, 5 of whom are appointed by the presiding officers of each House, and 5 persons appointed by the Governor. The Governor appoints one cochairman from among the gubernatorial appointees and the presiding officers of the Legislature appoint one cochairman from among their appointees.

LD 1790, as amended by House Amendment "B" provides an additional \$1,000,000 to be made available to the designated opportunity zones. The Maine Job Development Program Fund, administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, will provide \$750,000 of assistance to businesses in the designated opportunity zones. An additional \$200,000 is available from this fund for assistance to municipalities in opportunity zones. Municipalities may sue these grants to finance infrastructure development, planning and technical assistance, marketing, etc.

LD 1791 AN ACT TO CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITY ZONES

NOT ACCEPTED

Sponsor: BAILEY, Michaud, Dutremble, D. Collins
Committee Report: ND Min Rpt 1512

SUMMARY: LD 1791 was the new draft prepared for the minority of the committee to LD 1512. LD 1791 authorized the State Development Office to create 4 job opportunity zones and to provide tax credits to qualifying firms locating or expanding in these zones.

Unlike LD 1790, LD 1791 did not provide for an analysis of the distress in various regions of the state and a determination of the causes of distress. In addition, LD 1791 did not provide the additional \$1,000,000 of assistance to businesses and municipalities as provided in LD 1790.