

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
PART I - STATE GOVERNMENT

JULY 1989

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\* Denotes Chair

Staff: Ted Potter, Legislative Analyst

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1989

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 for each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are abbreviated as follows:

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

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Research Assistant Barbara McGinn, and secretaries: Charlene Brann, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

HEESCHEN  
MARTIN J  
BOST  
PRAY

ONTP MAJ  
OTP-AM MIN

SUMMARY

LD 1492 proposed that the Legislature, in joint convention, elect the Public Advocate for a term of 4 years. In the event of a vacancy in the office during the period that the Legislature is adjourned, the President of the Senate would be authorized to appoint an interim Public Advocate who would serve until the Legislature convenes and elects the Public Advocate.

The Committee Amendment provided that the Governor would continue to appoint the Public Advocate who would be subject to confirmation every 2 years.

**LD 1530 An Act to Clarify the Maine Municipal Bond Bank's and the  
Maine Public Utility Financing Bank's Ability to Hold, Own  
and Sell Real and Personal Property**

**PUBLIC 374  
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

JOSEPH  
CARROLL D  
KANY  
DAGGETT

OTP

SUMMARY

LD 1530 authorizes the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank to hold real property. Current law authorized the banks to hold personal property only. However, these banks, in cases of defaults, come into the possession of real property.

**LD 1562 An Act Concerning the Acquisition of Data Processing  
Equipment and Services by State Agencies**

**LV/WD**

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

BUSTIN

LV/WD

SUMMARY

LD 1562 proposed that the Deputy Commissioner of Administration, who is the Director of the Office of Information Services, adopt rules concerning state agencies' acquisition and use of computer and telecommunications hardware, software, and services. The deputy commissioner would establish a list of approved hardware, software, and services.

The purpose of the bill was to expedite agency acquisition of computer and telecommunications equipment, programs and services which currently require the deputy commissioner's approval. By creating a list of approved equipment, services, and software, agencies would not have to wait for the deputy commissioner's approval.

LD 1562 failed to receive Committee approval because it would have subverted the purpose of current law to make better use of equipment and software. Under the bill state agencies could purchase any amount

of data processing equipment and software without regard to the availability of equipment and programs in other agencies and the needs of other agencies.

**LD 1566 An Act Providing for the Development of a Proposal for the Delivery of Substance Abuse Programs Throughout the State**

**INDEF PP**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
BUSTIN MARTIN J ROLDE MATTHEWS	OTP-AM	S-306

SUMMARY

LD 1566 proposed to create the Office of Substance Abuse Services to administer substance abuse programs currently administered by the Departments of Corrections, Education, Human Services, and Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The Office would develop a comprehensive substance abuse plan for the State; coordinate all drug abuse prevention programs; inventory and evaluate all day abuse facilities, services, and programs; and develop training programs for persons treating drug abusers. The office would also license drug abuse treatment centers. The 25 member Maine Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment would advise, consult, and assist the 3 branches of government with respect to substance abuse.

The bill failed to receive committee approval, partly because of extraordinary powers and duties of the Office, Constitutional questions, and the exclusive focus on structure without consideration of the needs of substance abusers.

The Committee obtained approval from the Legislative Council to study the needs of substance abusers, the types of programs needed to help substance abusers, and the administrative structure of these programs.

**LD 1587 An Act to Establish Greater Communication in the Rule-making Process and to Provide Better Standards for the Adoption of Rules**

**PUBLIC 574**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
CARROLL D JOSEPH	OTP-AM	H-588

SUMMARY

LD 1587 proposed to provide more comprehensive information relating to rules for legislative use, to streamline the regulatory process, and to generate better communication between executive agencies and the Legislature with respect to the adoption of rules. Among other provisions, the bill:

1. requires each state agency to designate a person to serve as a liaison with the public, the Legislature, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State with respect to rule-making;
2. requires state agencies to issue an annual regulatory agenda of anticipated rule-making activities;
3. created a 12 member Commission on the Codification of Rules;