

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1991**

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 volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

**An Act to Reduce the Administrative Cost of State Government
by Abolishing the Division of Community Services and
Transferring its Essential Functions**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
FARNSWORTH	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-690
MANNING	ONTP	MIN	S-473 CLARK N
MARTIN J			
KILKELLY			

SUMMARY

Part A of this bill abolished the Executive Department, Division of Community Services and the Community Services Advisory Board. It reassigned the responsibility for the administration and distribution of block grant funds for food assistance, fuel assistance and Head Start to the Department of Human Services. It reassigned energy conservation programs to the Maine State Housing Authority.

Part B of the bill abolished the Department of Economic and Community Development. Responsibilities for international commerce, the Community Development Block Grant Program and comprehensive land use planning were transferred to the State Planning Office. The Division of Energy Conservation and the Maine Affordable Housing Alliance were reestablished in the Maine State Housing Authority. A new Office of Business Development was established within the Executive Department. It was responsible for the tourism, small business and community development functions formerly assigned to the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Part C of the bill made necessary technical changes to related statutory text to reflect the reorganization of government as provided in this bill.

Part D of the bill abolished 3 administrative, nonclassified positions in the Division of Community Services and 7 administrative positions within the Department of Economic and Community Development. Part D also provided transition provisions necessary to implement this Act. Classified personnel and property currently assigned to existing programs remained allocated to their respective programs and were transferred to the appropriate bureau, authority or office. Presently designated community action agencies retained their designations unless specifically rescinded through provisions in this bill. State employees transferred to the Maine State Housing Authority were given the option to remain state employees with full benefits or become employees of the authority.

Committee Amendment "A" replaced the bill. The amendment abolished the Division of Community Services and the Department of Economic and Community Development. The amendment created a new Executive Department, Office of Community and Economic Development to manage most of the functions of the former Department of Economic and Community Development. Affordable housing programs, formerly administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development were moved to the Maine State Housing Authority in a manner consistent with that proposed in L.D. 1556, "An Act to Unify Housing Services."

Functions administered by the former Division of Community Services were redistributed as follows: The Community Services Block Grant Program was moved to the Division of Community Planning within the newly created Office of Community and Economic Development; the Head Start program and the Maine Children's Trust Fund were moved to the Bureau of Child and Family Services within the Department of Human Services; and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, homelessness and other programs funded by the LIHEAP block grant were moved to the Maine State Housing Authority.

The committee amendment abolished 10 positions in the former Department of Economic and Community Development and 3 positions at the former Division of Community Services. The amendment also created the position of Director of the Office of Community and Economic Development.

All functions of both the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Division of Community Services were retained in the committee amendment except for the Job Opportunity Zones program and the Maine Affordable Housing Alliance, which are abolished. Provisions in the original bill that abolished the Community Services Advisory Board were retained. Using language that mirrors that of L.D. 1556, this amendment creates a temporary Affordable Housing Alliance Advisory Committee within the Maine State Housing Authority to assist with the transfer of affordable housing programs to that agency. The amendment also struck the authority of the Maine Children's Trust Fund Advisory Board to hire staff and required that the board use all money to fund direct services for local child abuse, child neglect and mental illness prevention programs.

Senate Amendment "A" replaced the committee amendment and the bill. The amendment abolished 4 positions in the Division of Community Services, abolished the division and moved its functions to other agencies of State Government. The Community Services Block Grant Program and funds were moved to the Department of Economic and Community Development. The Head Start program and the Maine Children's Trust Fund were moved to the Bureau of Child and Family Services within the Department of Human Services and the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program was moved to the Maine State Housing Authority.

This amendment retained the Department of Economic and Community Development and retained all positions in that department that were targeted for abolishment in the bill and in the committee amendment.

**LD 1782 Resolve, to Establish the Academy for Public Service Study
Committee**

INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)
SIMONDS
MARTIN J
GILL
JOSEPH

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-535

SUMMARY

This resolve would have established the Academy for Public Service Study Committee. The committee's charge was to review existing documents and reports and to examine to what extent the existing education and training resources of the University of Maine System and other higher education institutions meet the manpower education and training needs of State Government and local government. The committee was also to study the feasibility of organizing and coordinating resources within higher educational systems and State Government to create an academy for public service for personnel already in or contemplating direct services, supervisory, administrative or elected positions. The committee was required to hold its first meeting by October 15, 1991 and to report its findings to the First Regular Session of the 116th Legislature.

The committee amendment "A" changed the membership of the Academy for Public Service Study Committee and required the Department of Administration to provide the committee with staff and clerical support during the study period. The amendment also required the members to serve without compensation, struck the appropriation section from the resolve, specified that the report of the study committee must be submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government and added a fiscal note.