

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAY 1992

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David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst
Mike Higgins, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670

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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

MAY 1992

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 far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

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, especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

LD 2388 An Act to Authorize Bond Issues for Transportation and Public Infrastructure Capital Improvements and Other Activities Designed to Create and Preserve Jobs for Maine Citizens (Reported Pursuant to Joint Order HP1705)

P & S 113

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
OTP	MAJ	H-1262 MELENDY
ONTP	MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill was developed and reported out by the committee pursuant to Joint Order. It implements one of the recommendations of the Jobs Commission—to present voters with a jobs stimulation bond initiative in the Spring for public works projects to be begun this construction season. The bill authorizes a \$106,000,000 bond package to create and protect jobs and to make necessary capital improvements in the public infrastructure of the State. The package will be presented to the voters as 2 questions on April 14. All funds are to be used for capital improvement projects ready for initiation during this year's construction season.

Part A establishes a multipart \$50,000,000 General Fund bond package to be used for immediate capital improvement projects, including \$30,000,000 for municipal infrastructure, \$5,300,000 for public schools, \$4,000,000 for the Maine Technical College System, \$2,000,000 for the University of Maine System, \$1,000,000 for residential group homes and \$700,000 for rural health clinics and centers. Part A also authorizes \$7,000,000 in bonds to be used by the Finance Authority of Maine to assist distressed but otherwise healthy businesses through establishment of a revolving loan fund.

Part B authorizes a \$56,000,000 bond issue to fund transportation infrastructure improvements, including \$25,000,000 for highway bridge improvements, \$10,000,000 for the local road assistance program, \$3,000,000 for sand and salt shed projects, \$13,600,000 for ferry, pier and port facilities improvements and \$4,400,000 for railroad and airport improvements.

House Amendment "E" (H-1262) replaces the bill and authorizes a \$79,000,000 jobs bond package to be presented to the voters at the June primary election.

Part A establishes a multipart \$37,000,000 General Fund bond package to be used for capital improvement projects, including municipal infrastructure and public schools. Part A also authorizes \$7,000,000 of these bonds to be used by the Finance Authority of Maine to assist distressed but otherwise healthy businesses through establishment of a revolving loan fund.

Part B authorizes a \$42,000,000 Highway Fund and General Fund bond issue to fund transportation infrastructure improvements, including \$19,000,000 for highway and bridge improvements, \$10,000,000 for the local road assistance program, \$8,600,000 for ferry, pier and port facilities improvements and \$4,400,000 for railroad and airport improvements.

LD 2389 An Act to Implement the Jobs Creation Bond Package (Reported Pursuant to Joint Order HP1705)

PUBLIC 849
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
OTP	MAJ	H-1280 MELENDY
ONTP	MIN	S-782 BRANNIGAN

SUMMARY

This bill is accompanying legislation to the \$106,000,000 bond issue referendum established in LD 2388 and will go into effect only if that bond issue is approved by the voters. The bill contains the statutory and unallocated language necessary to implement the job-creation bond issue this summer,

including the criteria to be used by the Department of Economic and Community Development to select municipal projects to be funded with bond proceeds.

House Amendment "C" (H-1280) makes necessary changes in the bill as a result of amendments to LD 2388. The amendment requires that the performance standards required by the Department of Economic and Community Development of municipalities in contracting for the use of funds provided by a bond issue for a capital construction job creation program be required by the Department of Education when contracting with municipalities for the use of such funds. The amendment deletes some agencies that may be awarded bond proceeds and makes reductions in the amount of the bond issue to be submitted to the voters. The House Amendment also adds appropriation and allocation sections and a fiscal note and clarifies the effective date of the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-782) strikes an appropriation to the Department of Economic and Community Development for project staff related to infrastructure project improvements. This task will be absorbed within the department's existing budget. This amendment also amends the General Fund appropriation to the Debt Service Account to reflect anticipated interest earnings.

LD 2391 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$20,000,000 to Provide Funds to Initiate Economic Development Activities INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CONLEY LIPMAN VIGUE OLIVER		

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes a bond issue in the amount of \$20,000,000 to be presented to the voters. The bond proceeds will be used to provide funds to initiate economic development activities. This bond issue is a companion measure to "An Act to Promote Economic Recovery," LD 2393.

LD 2393 An Act to Promote Economic Recovery INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CONLEY LIPMAN VIGUE OLIVER		

SUMMARY

This bill proposes a multiple part, comprehensive plan designed to provide immediate assistance to various sectors of the economy of the State.

Part A establishes a series of tax reforms. A local option tax on salaries and rents is proposed. An investment tax credit for qualified special energy equipment is established and a deduction for installation of energy conservation devices by homeowners is provided. A personal property investment tax credit is established for businesses. Finally, a credit for taxpayers who hire unemployed workers or workers who are receiving workers' compensation benefits is established.

Part B establishes a preference for Maine-based contractors and subcontractors in evaluation of bids for purchases by the State. State bonds that have been approved by the voters but not yet brought to market