

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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**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.

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

are accelerated. Projects of state departments that have been approved but not yet commenced are also accelerated.

Part C establishes the Maine Street Investment Program, contingent on approval of a companion bond issue bill. This program was enacted in the First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature but never took effect because voters failed to approve funding.

Part D gives new responsibilities to the Finance Authority of Maine. The Maine Indigenous Industries Program is established to assist business in resource-based indigenous industries such as fishing, agriculture and timber harvesting, as well as alternative energy businesses and conservation and recycling enterprises. The Business Preservation Assistance Program is also created to provide technical and financial assistance to potential buyers of troubled manufacturing plants and companies.

Part E establishes 2 small loan programs under the auspices of the Public Utilities Commission. These programs will allow electric, water and sewer utilities to offer small loans to residential customers to purchase conservation equipment and to include repayments in the customer's regular utility bill.

Part F makes reforms related to banking, loans and mortgages. It requires the Superintendent of the Bureau of Banking to examine proposed mergers of financial institutions to ensure that capital and assets are available to make loans within the State and further requires remedial actions to correct past losses of capital and assets. It also requires arbitration of collection actions on loans of less than \$125,000 and establishes a 90-day right of redemption on foreclosed property that has been sold at auction. It also authorizes the Maine State Housing Authority to issue pooled securities backed by certain mortgages on property in the State.

Part G provides an 18-month extension for approved subdivision permits and up to a 2-year extension to certain development projects that have been approved by state and local regulators. It also directs the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development concerning the availability of loan funding for development activities.

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$20,000,000 to Provide Funding for Urgent Economic Development Activities, LD 2391, is a companion measure to this bill and provides start-up funds for programs established by this bill. Both bills were reported out ONTP by the committee in favor of the committee's economic development package--LDs 2454 and 2455.

LD 2410 An Act to Finance Rapid Employment Opportunities for the People of Maine

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

SPONSOR(S)

PRAY
DUTREMBLE D
MATTHEWS
KONTOS

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-612 BRANNIGAN

SUMMARY

This bill is another version of LD 2388, the jobs-creation bond package. This bill authorizes a \$90,300,000 bond package to create and protect jobs and to make necessary capital improvements in the public infrastructure of the State. The proposal will be presented to the voters as 2 questions at a special election 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 \$42,300,000 General Fund bond package to be used for immediate capital improvement projects, including municipal infrastructure and public schools. Part A also authorizes