

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AUGUST 1995

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\*Denotes Chair



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**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE  
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

**AUGUST 1995**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing 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. The publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, is helpful in determining to which committee any particular bill was referred.

In this document, the committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number, together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various categories of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If more detailed information is needed on a bill, contact the committee analyst.

5581LHS

**LD 193**

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine To Establish a Limit on Increases in the Local  
Property Tax**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
UNDERWOOD

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This resolution proposes a Constitutional amendment to place a limit upon increases in the valuation of property and the local property tax rate. The limit is the lower of the rate of increase in the federal Consumer Price Index or the rate of increase in real personal wages in the State.

**LD 199**

**An Act Concerning the Competitive Bidding Process in  
Cooperative Projects between the State and the Maine  
Technical College System**

PUBLIC 42

**SPONSOR(S)**  
CAMPBELL  
O'DEA

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill gives the Director of the Bureau of General Services the authority to waive the requirement of competitive bidding when the purchase is part of a cooperative project between the State and the Maine Technical College System.

**LD 201**

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Require the Popular Election of the Attorney  
General**

FAILED ENACTMENT

**SPONSOR(S)**  
LEMKE

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM MAJ  
ONTP MIN

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This resolution proposes a Constitutional Amendment to provide for direct popular election of the State's Attorney General in the same manner as currently provided for the Governor.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-70) limits the number of terms the Attorney General may serve to 2 consecutive 4-year terms. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the resolution.

**LD 217**

**An Act to Amend the Sewer Lien Law to Provide Clear Title**

PUBLIC 21

**SPONSOR(S)**  
WINGLASS

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-30

**SUMMARY**

Current law provides for a lien on behalf of a sewer district against the real estate served by the sewer district if the owner of the property fails to pay his or her sewer bill. If the property owner fails to pay the lien, a mortgage is deemed to have been created in favor of the district. The owner has 18 months to discharge the mortgage by paying the fees due plus interest and costs. After 18 months the mortgage is deemed to be foreclosed and the right to discharge expired.