

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:

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

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) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
CAMPBELL OTP
O'DEA

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) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
LEMKE OTP-AM MAJ
ONTP MIN

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) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
WINGLASS OTP-AM 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.

This bill provides for discharge of the mortgage after 18 months and termination of the title of the district if that occurs. The bill is parallel to provisions for discharge of municipal property tax liens. The provisions of the bill apply to all sewer district liens whenever recorded.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-30) changes 2 references to "municipality" to "sewer district" in the bill in order to reflect the intent of the legislation.

LD 246 An Act to Require Legislators to Pay a Portion of Their Health and Dental Insurance Premiums ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MCELROY	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill requires that Legislators covered under a group health insurance plan or dental insurance plan for Legislators contribute 20% of the insurance premium. The bill also gives legislators the option of receiving the cash value of the insurance benefits in lieu of the state contribution.

LD 247 An Act to Ensure Full Agency Review of Municipal Impacts Caused by Agency Actions ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
KONTOS	ONTP		

SUMMARY

This bill requires that rules that, if adopted, would potentially result in costs for a municipality but, because of the indirectness of the impact or other factor, do not rise to the level of state mandates must be reviewed by the agency proposing them to determine whether the costs can be mitigated or avoided. If the costs can not be mitigated or avoided, the agency must make specific findings to justify the fiscal impact.

LD 270 Resolve, to Create the Commission to Establish Job Criteria and Qualification Requirements for Certain State Officers ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
JOYNER	ONTP		

SUMMARY

This resolve creates the Commission to Establish Job Criteria and Qualification Requirements for Certain State Officers. The responsibilities and duties of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State, the Attorney General and the State Auditor will be reviewed for the purpose of establishing job criteria and qualification requirements for the individuals holding those positions.

LD 275 Resolve, Creating the New England Regional Commission on Fiscal and Public Policy ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
RICHARDSON	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	